

DIGITAL EDITION

GUNSLINGER GIRL

STORY & ART BY
YU AIDA

Vol. 9





SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GUNSLINGER GIRL

VOLUME 9

story and art by YU AIDA

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GUNSLINGER GIRL VOLUME 9

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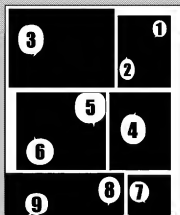
Ebook Edition: July 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but it's the way manga is read.



C H A R A C T E R S

登場人物紹介



ANGELICA

The first prototype cyborg. She was the first to start displaying side effects to the cyborg conversion process, and has an acute dependency on the "drug" used. Her handler is Marco.



MARCO

Ex-military special forces. When he was discharged due to an injury, he took up a job with the Agency. He has trouble dealing with feelings of helplessness and frustration as he watches Angelica's condition deteriorate day by day.



TRIELA

Smart and responsible, she is an "older sister" figure for the other cyborgs. Her handler is Hilshire.



HILSHIRE

German. Former detective with Europol. Tries very hard to be kind to Triela, but has difficulty figuring out what kind of distance there should be in their relationship.

PETRUSHKA

The first of the new, second-generation cyborgs. In her life before the Agency, she was a promising young ballerina with the Bolshoi Ballet. However, osteosarcoma in her leg ended her career, and she attempted suicide. Her handler is Alessandro.



ALESSANDRO

A new handler transferred from the Agency's Public Safety division over to Section 2. Prior to his transfer, his missions centered around infiltrating Padania terrorist groups.



HENRIETTA

The only survivor of a slaughtered family of six. Thanks to her "conditioning" when she was converted into a cyborg, she is blindly in love with her handler, Jose.



JOSE CROCE

Ex-military. Generally, he is very kind to Henrietta, but is beginning to get disturbed at how much he unconsciously imposes his late sister's image onto her.



RICO

Former quadriplegic. Innocent and cheerful, even the most common everyday things bring her much joy. Her handler is Jean.



JEAN CROCE

Jose's older brother. Very serious-minded and business-like. He is the cyborg handlers' leader and field commander for Section 2 operations.

CLAES

Triela's roommate. When her handler Raballo was killed, she became the Agency's "guinea pig" cyborg. All cyborg developments are first tested on her.



LORENZO

Section 2 Chief.
Formerly of the
Ministry of State.



PRISCILLA

Section 2 agent.
Specializes in
intel and data
analysis.



OLGA

Section 2 agent.
Russian.



GIORGIO

Section 2 agent.
Former military.



AMADEO

Section 2 agent.
Former military.



BIANCHI

Agency technician.
Responsible for the
cyborgs' counseling.



BERGONZI

Agency technician.
Specializes in
research on
artificial cardio-
vascular and
lymphatic systems.



MARIANNA

Agency technician.
Specializes in neuro-
logical research
and analysis.

K E Y W O R D S

用語解説

[CYBORG]

Experimental technology created by the Agency. Critically-injured children have their natural muscles and organs replaced with artificial ones, then they are brainwashed by a special procedure called "conditioning."

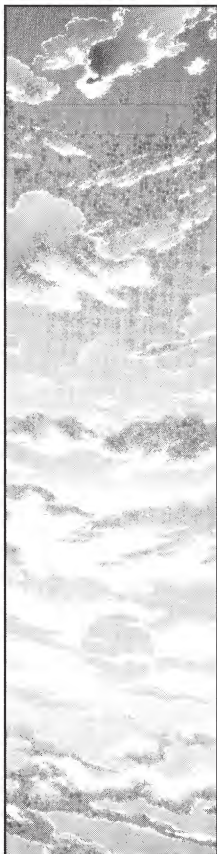
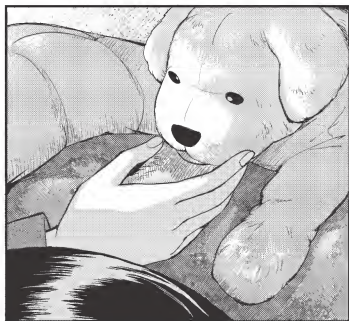
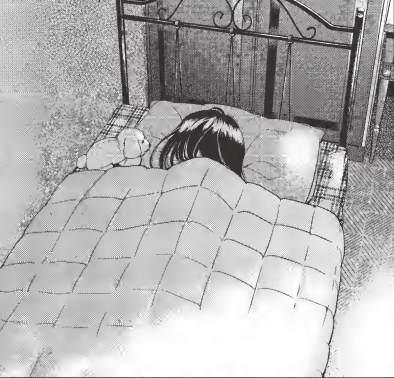
[FIVE REPUBLICS FACTION]

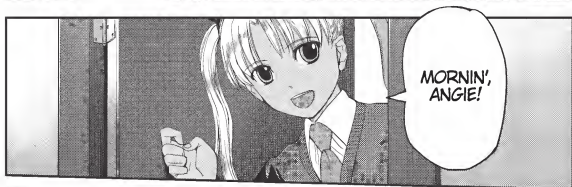
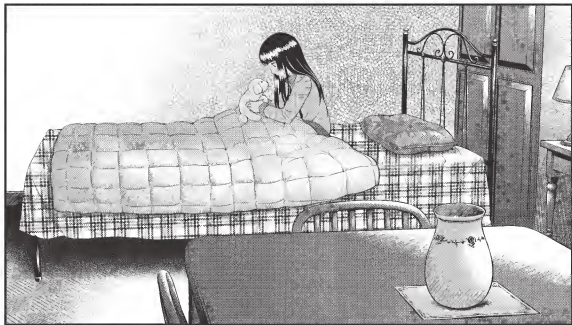
Commonly referred to as "Padania."
An anti-globalization, right-wing group advocating for the affluent Northern provinces of Italy to secede and form their own country.

[THE SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCY]

A counter-intelligence organization created in secret by the Prime Minister's office, charged with curbing the growth of radical-right groups in an already turbulent Italy.

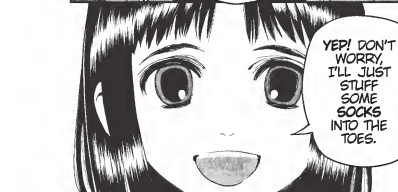






ONCE UPON
A TIME, IN A
LAND FAR,
FAR AWAY,
THERE WAS A
LITTLE GIRL
WHO LOVED
PASTA.









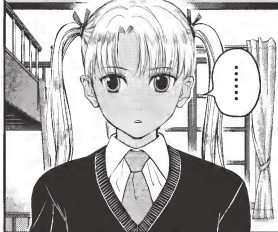
SHE SAID
THAT THE
GIRL
LOOKS A
LOT LIKE
HER.

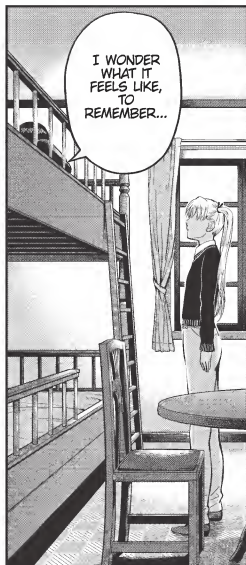
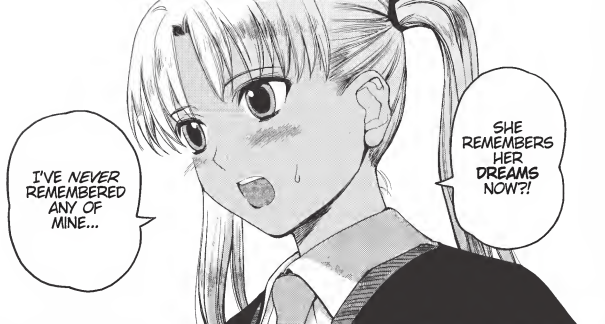


MM-HMM.
SHE SAYS
SHE HAS
BEEN HAVING
THE SAME
DREAM A LOT
LATELY.

A
DREAM?

ONE
ABOUT
THE LIFE
OF A
HAPPY
GIRL.

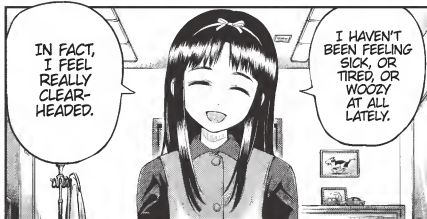






YOU'RE
LOOKING
AWFULLY
CHIPPER
TODAY.

YEP!



IN FACT,
I FEEL
REALLY
CLEAR-
HEADED.

I HAVEN'T
BEEN FEELING
SICK, OR
TIRED, OR
WOODY
AT ALL
LATELY.



OH!
HEY,
DOCTOR?

HOW WAS
YOUR
TRIP?



REALLY?
THAT'S
GOOD.

PROBABLY
BECAUSE OF
THE LIMITS
PUT ON THE
DRUG
DOSAGES
SHE'S BEEN
ALLOWED
RECENTLY.

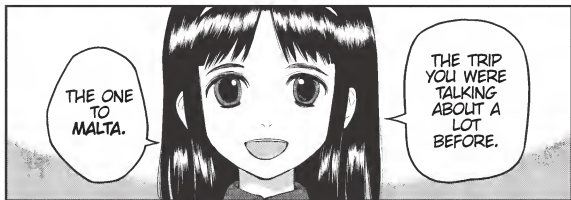
HELLO,
DOCTOR
BIANCHI!

HI,
ANGIE.
HAVE A
SEAT.



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

MY
TRIP?



THE ONE
TO
MALTA.

THE TRIP
YOU WERE
TALKING
ABOUT A
LOT
BEFORE.



IS HER
MEMORY
BECOMING
MUDDLED?

ALL RIGHT
THEN,
TODAY WILL
BE JUST A
FEW SIMPLE
TESTS,
OKAY?

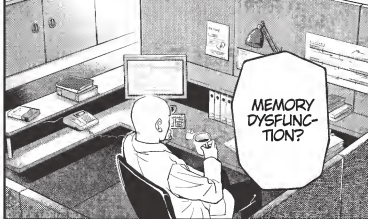
ALL
RIGHT!



OH,
YES.
THAT
ONE...

WE HAD
A VERY
GOOD TIME.
THERE
WERE LOTS
OF CATS,
TOO.

MY
VACATION
TO MALTA
WAS OVER
HALF A
YEAR
AGO...





I
THOUGHT
WE WERE,
TOO.

LONG AGO~♪

FAR AWAY~♪

IN A MAGICAL
LA~ND...♪



SHE IS
OFFICIALLY
AN ADDICT,
SO I WOULD
SAY THAT
IS VERY
PROBABLE.

DO YOU
THINK A
BUILDUP OF
THE DRUG IN
HER SYSTEM
COULD BE
THE CAUSE?

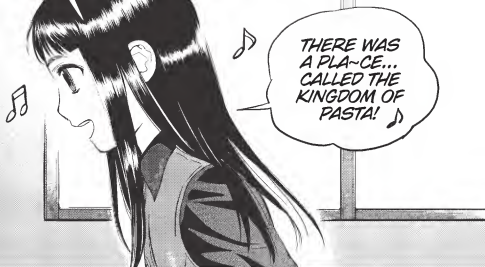


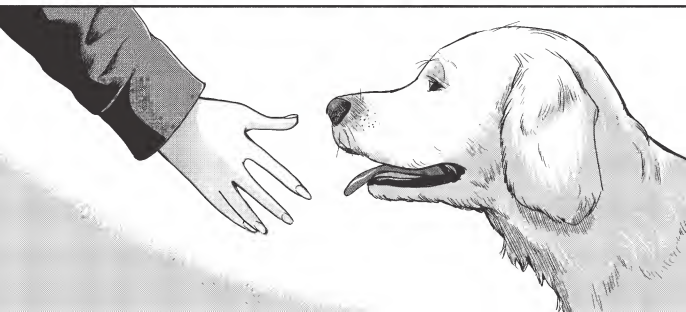
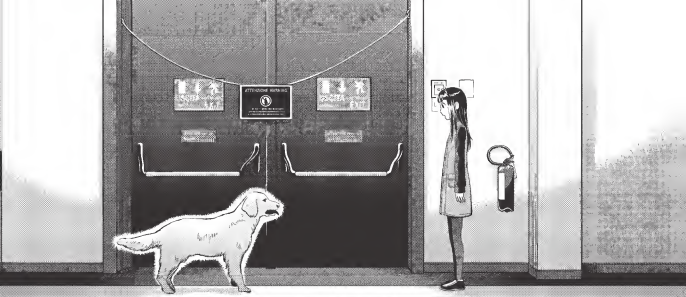
WE
NEED TO
TEST
HER.



BUT WEREN'T
YOU GUYS
SUPPOSED TO
BE ABLE TO
CONTROL
PEOPLE'S
MEMORIES WITH
THAT WHOLE
"CONDITIONING"
THING?

I KNOW
HOW THIS
HAS TO
SOUND,
COMING
FROM ME,
NOW OF ALL
TIMES...









PADANIA HAS
VOLUNTARILY
CEASED
PERPETRATING
TERRORIST
ATTACKS ON
HIGH-TRAFFIC
TOURIST AND
CULTURAL
SITES.



THE
OBVIOUS
TARGETS
ARE GOV-
ERNMENT
FACILITIES.



IN
PARTICULAR,
ANY RELATED
TO PUBLIC
SECURITY
OR THE
POLICE.



ACCORDINGLY,
THAT
CONSIDER-
ABLY
NARROWS
DOWN WHERE
THEY ARE
ABLE TO
SET THEIR
BOMBS...

THAT
MAKES
FINDING
WHERE THIS
LATEST ONE
IS HIDDEN
MUCH
EASIER ON
US.

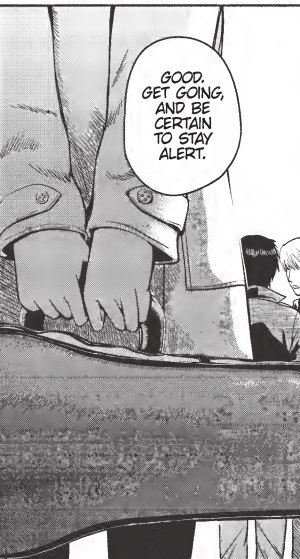


TCH.
YOU WANT
ME TO GO
THERE...?

JOSE AND
I WILL WATCH
OVER THE
HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE
CARABINIERI
AND THE
ARMY.

MARCO,
I WANT
YOU TO
PATROL
AROUND
THE DCP*.

*DCP = Direzione Centrale della Polizia (Police Central Directorate)



GOOD.
GET GOING,
AND BE
CERTAIN
TO STAY
ALERT.



I'LL
TRADE
WITH
YOU,
IF YOU
WANT.



NAH,
THAT'S
OKAY.

I GUESS
I'LL GO.
IT IS A
PLACE I
KNOW LIKE
THE BACK
OF MY
HAND.





THE DIR-
EZIONE
CENTRALE
DELLA
POLIZIA...



THAT'S
WHERE
YOU USED
TO WORK.
RIGHT,
SIGNORE
MARCO?



YOU
TOLD ME
YOUR-
SELF.

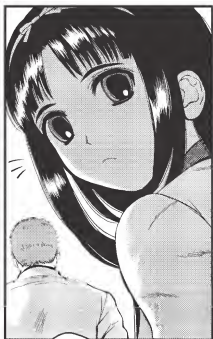


HOW...
DID YOU
KNOW
THAT?





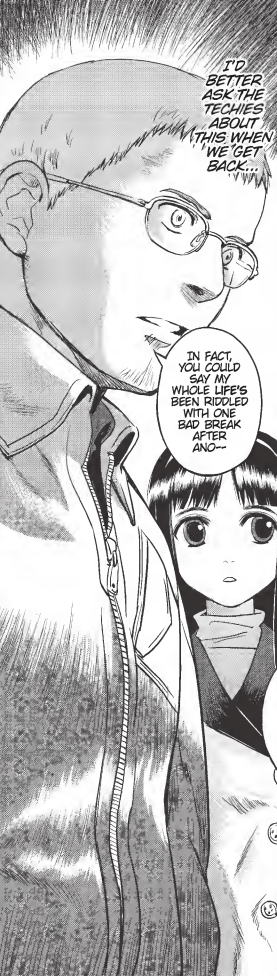




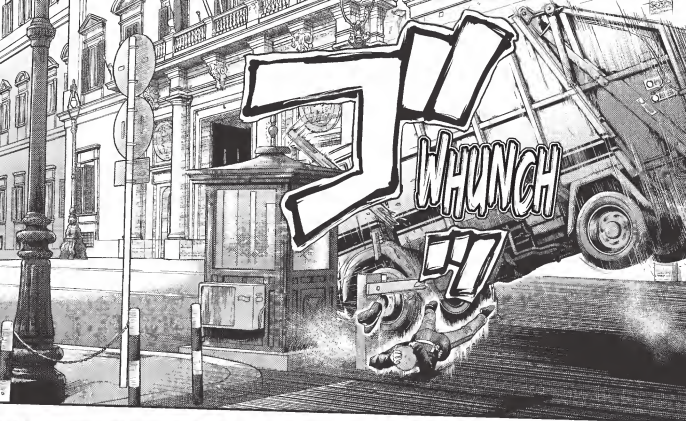
WHAT'S
WRONG?

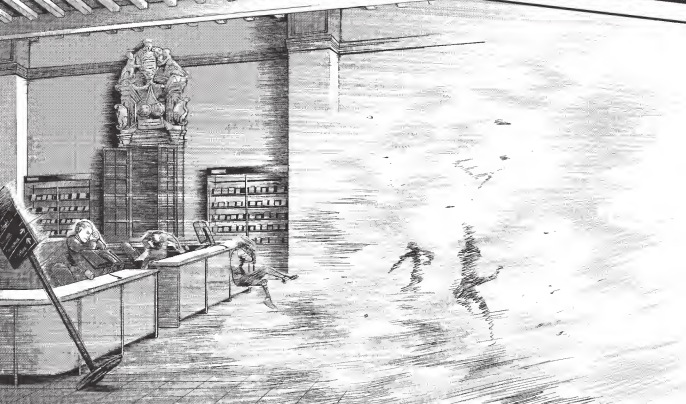
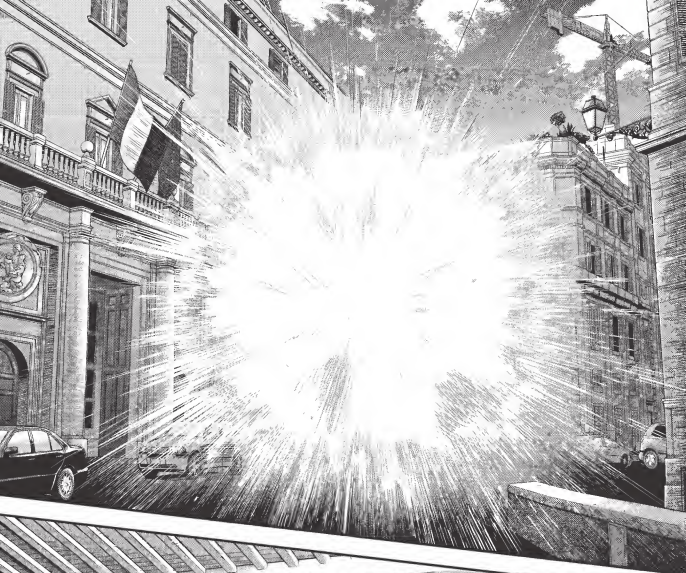
ANGELICA?







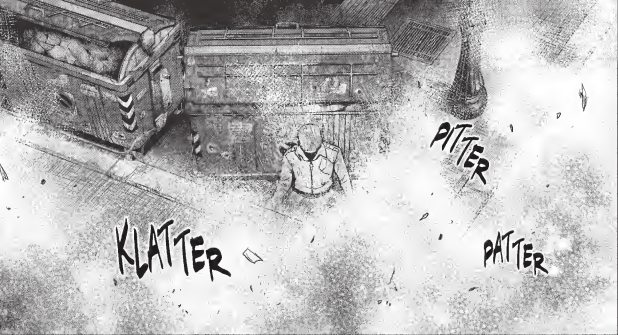






ド BOOOOOM
オオオオニ

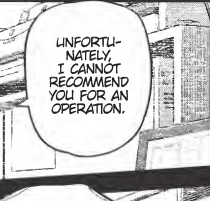








THE RISK
THAT YOU
WOULD
WIND UP
COMPLETELY
BLIND IS
ENTIRELY
TOO HIGH.



UNFORTU-
NATELY,
I CANNOT
RECOMMEND
YOU FOR AN
OPERATION.



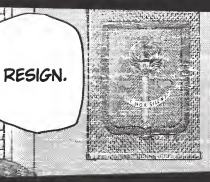
.....



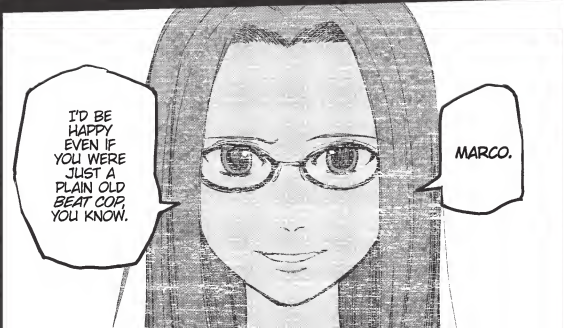
EVEN IF
IT DID
SUCCEED,
YOU WOULD
STILL
EXPERIENCE
A DEFINITIVE
LOSS OF
VISION.



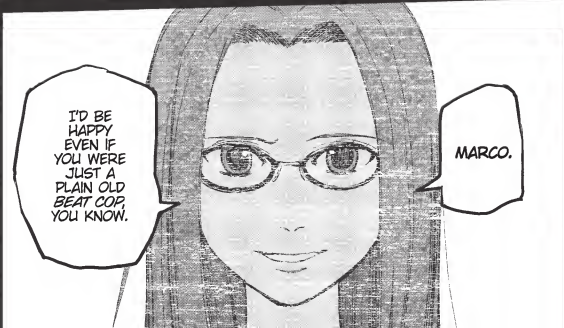
WITH
THOSE EYES,
YOU AREN'T
CUT OUT
FOR THE
WORK
WE DO.



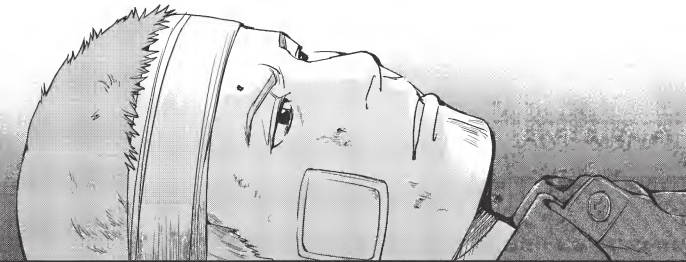
RESIGN.



I'D BE
HAPPY
EVEN IF
YOU WERE
JUST A
PLAIN OLD
BEAT COP,
YOU KNOW.



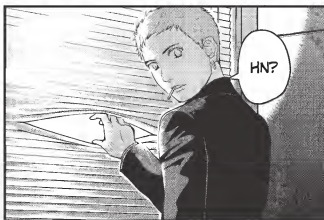
MARCO.



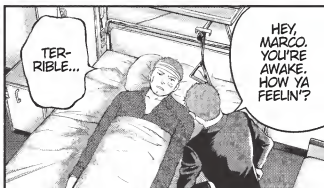
WHEW

THANK GOD...
I CAN
SEE.
I DIDN'T
GO
BLIND...

WHERE
ARE WE?
WHAT
HOSPITAL
IS THIS?



HN?



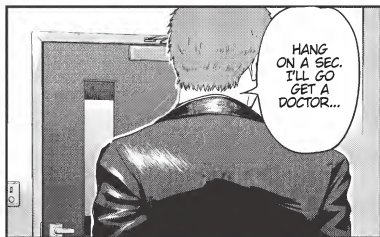
TER-
RIBLE...

HEY,
MARCO.
YOU'RE
AWAKE.
HOW YA
FEELIN'?



YOU GOT
TAKEN TO
ONE OF THE
LOCAL CIVVY
HOSPITALS
FIRST,
BUT WE
HAD YOU
TRANSFERRED
OUT.

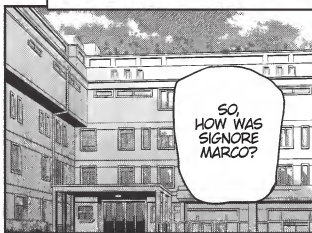
RELAX.
THIS ONE'S
RESERVED
FOR
GOVERNMENT
PERSONNEL
ONLY.





REALLY?!
BUT THAT
WAS, LIKE,
A HUGE
EXPLOSION!
WASN'T HE
RIGHT NEXT
TO IT?

YEAH.
GUESS
YOU COULD
CALL IT A
MIRACLE,
HUH?

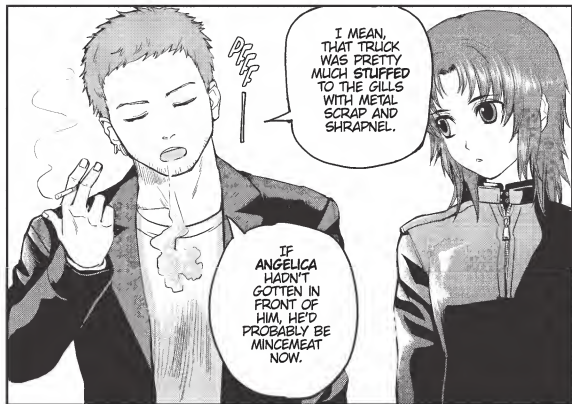


SO,
HOW WAS
SIGNORE
MARCO?



DOCS
SAY
THEY'LL
LET HIM
OUT BY
NEXT
WEEK.

FINE,
MOSTLY.
HE DIDN'T
GET
HURT
TOO
BAD.

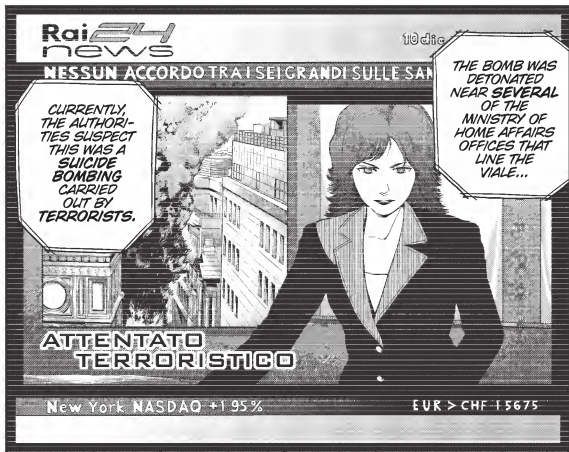


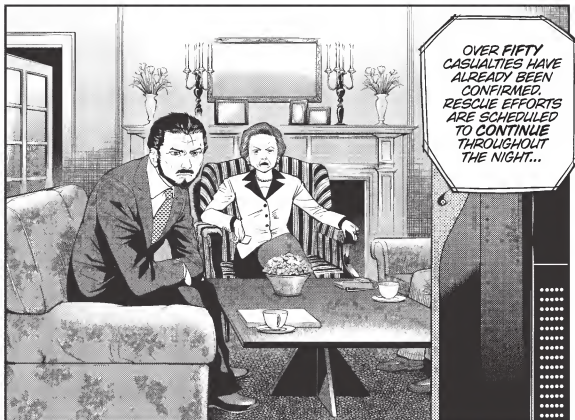
I MEAN,
THAT TRICK
WAS PRETTY
MUCH STUFFED
TO THE GILLS
WITH METAL
SCRAP AND
SHRAPNEL.

IF
ANGELICA
HADN'T
GOTTEN IN
FRONT OF
HIM, HE'D
PROBABLY BE
MINCEMEAT
NOW.

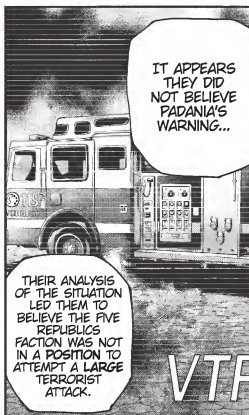








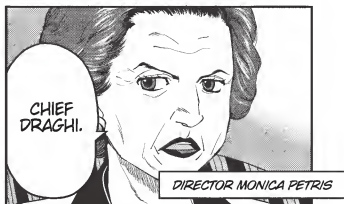
OVER FIFTY CASUALTIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONFIRMED. RESCUE EFFORTS ARE SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT...



IT APPEARS THEY DID NOT BELIEVE PADANIA'S WARNING...

THEIR ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION LED THEM TO BELIEVE THE FIVE REPUBLICS FACTION WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ATTEMPT A LARGE TERRORIST ATTACK.

VTF



CHIEF DRAGHI.

DIRECTOR MONICA PETRIS



SECTION 1 CHIEF DRAGHI

YES, MA'AM ?

WAS THE MINISTRY ENTIRELY UNPREPARED FOR AN ATTACK?



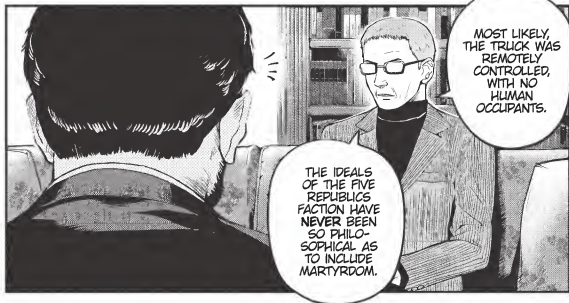
IF THEY
HAVE GOTTEN
DESPERATE
ENOUGH TO
ATTEMPT SELF-
DESTRUCTIVE
TACTICS LIKE
THAT, THINGS
WILL BECOME
QUITE
DIFFICULT.

IS THE
MEDIA'S
PRESENTATION
OF THE EVENT
AS A SUICIDE
BOMBING
ACCURATE?



AFTER ALL,
SUICIDE
BOMBINGS ARE
DECIDEDLY
OUT OF
CHARACTER
FOR THEM.

I HAVE MY
PEOPLE IN
SECTION 1
WORKING
TO CONFIRM
THIS
INFORMATION.



THE IDEALS
OF THE FIVE
REPUBLICS
FACTION HAVE
NEVER BEEN
SO PHILO-
SOPHICAL AS
TO INCLUDE
MARTYRDOM.

MOST LIKELY,
THE TRUCK WAS
REMOTELY
CONTROLLED,
WITH NO
HUMAN
OCCUPANTS.



I WILL HAVE
SOME OF MY
AGENTS
LOOK INTO IT,
RIGHT AWAY.

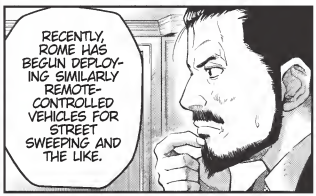
ERM,
YES...

WHAT OF
THE CYBORG
WHO WAS
CAUGHT UP
IN THE
EXPLOSION.
HOW DOES
SHE FARE?

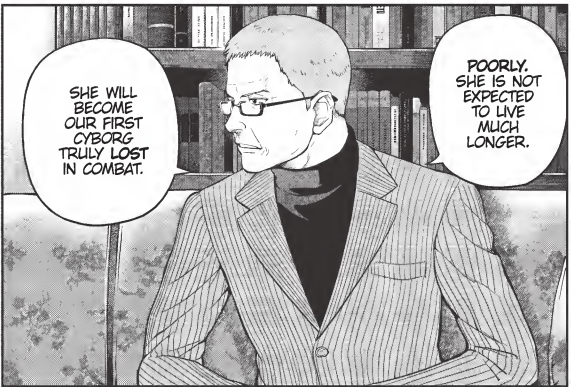


I BELIEVE
WE SHOULD
INVESTIGATE
THE REMOTE-
CONTROLLED
TRUCK ANGLE
IMMEDIATELY.

SECTION 2 CHIEF LORENZO

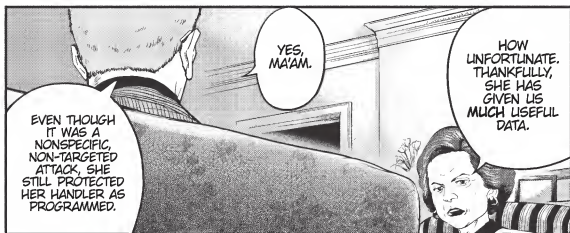


RECENTLY,
ROME HAS
BEGUN DEPLOY-
ING SIMILARLY
REMOTE-
CONTROLLED
VEHICLES FOR
STREET
SWEEPING AND
THE LIKE.



SHE WILL
BECOME
OUR FIRST
CYBORG
TRULY LOST
IN COMBAT.

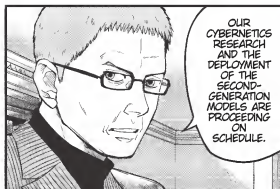
POORLY.
SHE IS NOT
EXPECTED
TO LIVE
MUCH
LONGER.



YES,
MA'AM.

HOW
UNFORTUNATE.
THANKFULLY,
SHE HAS
GIVEN US
MUCH USEFUL
DATA.

EVEN THOUGH
IT WAS A
NONSPECIFIC,
NON-TARGETED
ATTACK, SHE
STILL PROTECTED
HER HANDLER AS
PROGRAMMED.



OUR
CYBERNETICS
RESEARCH
AND THE
DEPLOYMENT
OF THE
SECOND-
GENERATION
MODELS ARE
PROCEEDING
ON
SCHEDULE.



IT IS A
TERRIBLE FACT
OF LIFE THAT
SACRIFICES
COME PART
AND PARCEL
WITH WAR.

ALL WE CAN
DO IS OUR
VERY BEST
TO MAKE
SURE THOSE
SACRIFICES
ARE NOT IN
VAIN.



HMPH!

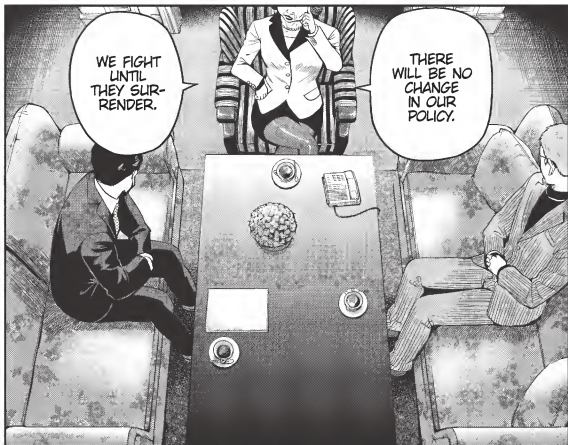
YOU'D BETTER
JUST HOPE
THAT THERE ARE
STILL PADANIA
TERRORISTS
AROUND WHEN
YOU FINALLY FINISH
COLLECTING ALL
YOUR
DOLLIES!



IN TRUTH,
THEIR INTERNAL
FEUDING HAS
THEM A HAIR'S
BREADTH FROM
COMPLETE
DISSOLUTION...



MA'AM,
IT IS OBVIOUS
THIS ATTACK
WAS STAGED TO
SHOW THE
COUNTRY
THAT THEY
ARE STILL
UNITED AND
DANGEROUS.

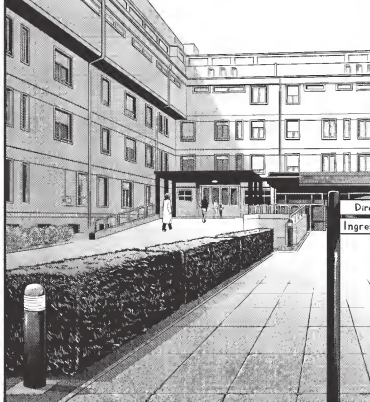


WE FIGHT
UNTIL
THEY SURRENDER.

THERE
WILL BE NO
CHANGE
IN OUR
POLICY.



MARCO,
ARE YOU
SURE IT'S
OKAY FOR
YOU TO BE
LEAVING
NOW?

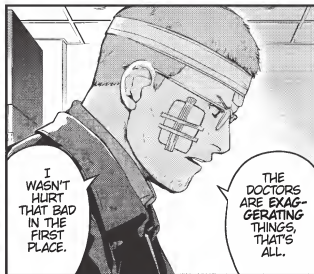


WHAT'S
HAPPENED
SINCE THE
EXPLOSION?

I SAW
THE POLICE
RAID ON
THE NEWS,
BUT
THAT'S IT.



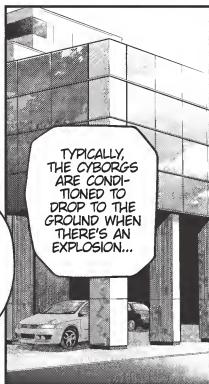
YOU
AREN'T
SCHEDULED
FOR
RELEASE
UNTIL
TOMORROW.



I
WASN'T
HURT
THAT BAD
IN THE
FIRST
PLACE.

THE
DOCTORS
ARE EXAG-
GERATING
THINGS,
THAT'S
ALL.

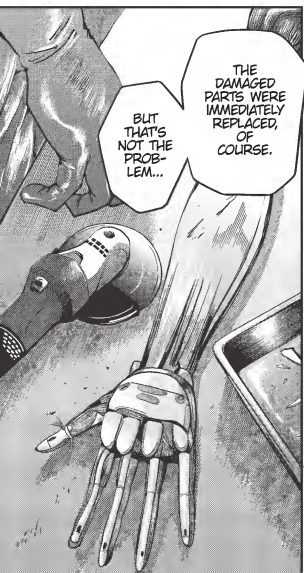






IS
BECAUSE
SHE
BLOCKED
IT ALL,
FOR YOU.

THE
REASON
YOU GOT
OFF AS
LIGHTLY AS
YOU DID,
MARCO...

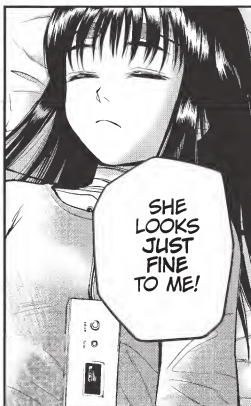


BUT
THAT'S
NOT THE
PROB-
LEM...

THE
DAMAGED
PARTS WERE
IMMEDIATELY
REPLACED,
OF
COURSE.



WHAT
...?



SHE
LOOKS
JUST
FINE
TO ME!



THE CYBORGS
HAVE BODIES
THAT ARE
THEORETICALLY
INFINITELY
REPAIRABLE.

BUT IT'S
HOW
MUCH THEIR
BRAINS CAN
TAKE THAT
DETERMINES
THEIR ULTIMATE
LIFESPAN.

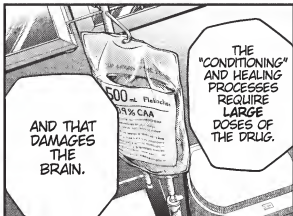


IT'S
FINALLY
GIVING
OUT.

HER
BRAIN.



SHE WAS
SENT INTO
RECONSTRUCTIVE
SURGERY,
EVEN THOUGH
IT WAS
OBVIOUS IT
WOULD BE A
HUGE STRAIN
ON HER.

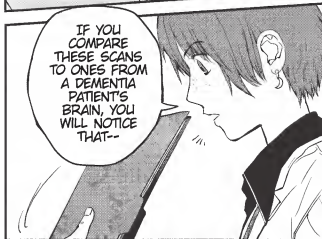


AND THAT
DAMAGES
THE
BRAIN.

THE
"CONDITIONING"
AND HEALING
PROCESSES
REQUIRE
LARGE
DOSES OF
THE DRUG.



AS YOU
CAN SEE,
HER BRAIN
TISSUE IS
CONTINUING
TO
ATROPHY.



IF YOU
COMPARE
THESE SCANS
TO ONES FROM
A DEMENTIA
PATIENT'S
BRAIN, YOU
WILL NOTICE
THAT--

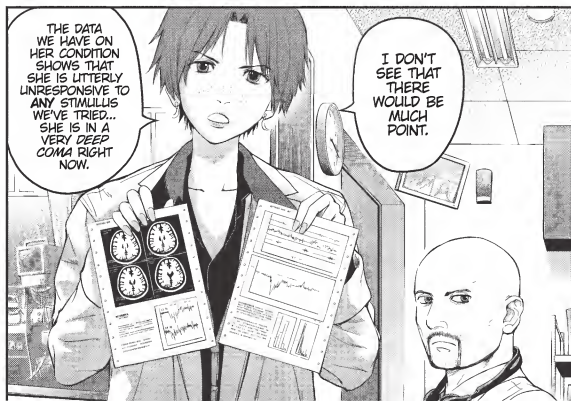


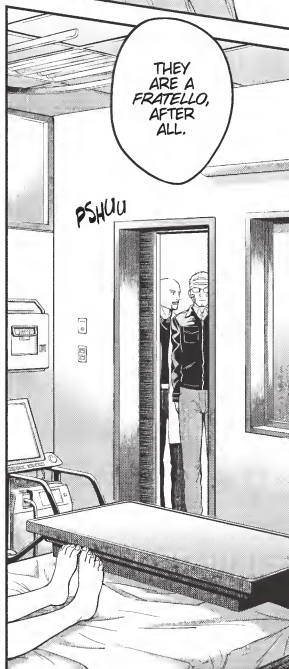
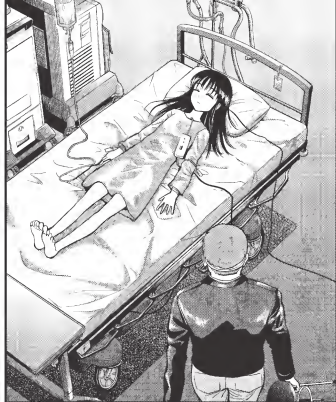
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND.

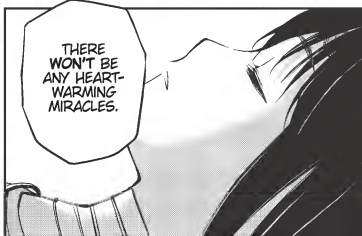


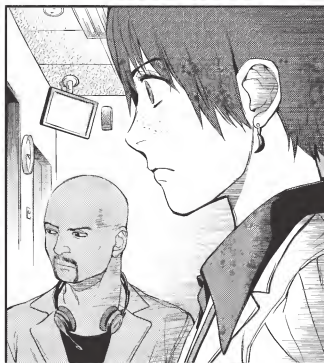
HERE'S
THE
LATEST
CT SCAN,
DR.
BELISARIO.

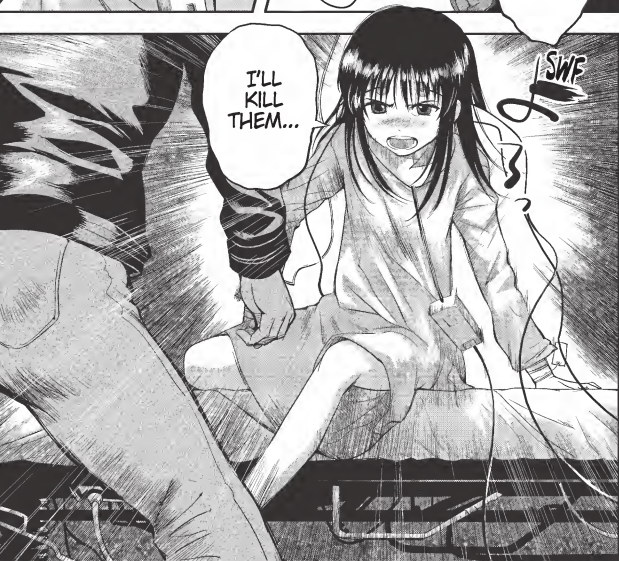
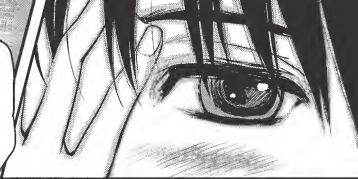
THANKS...















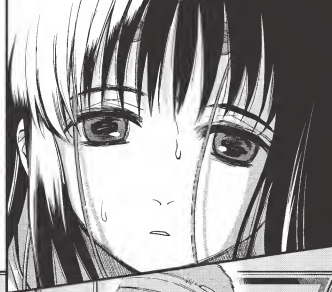
A
DOG
?!

DID YOU
BRING A
DOGGIE
WITH YOU
TODAY,
SIGNORE
MARCO?



SHE'S
HALLU-
CINAT-
ING?

WHAT
DOGG?
THERE
AREN'T
ANY
DOGS IN
HERE!



A
DOGGIE...



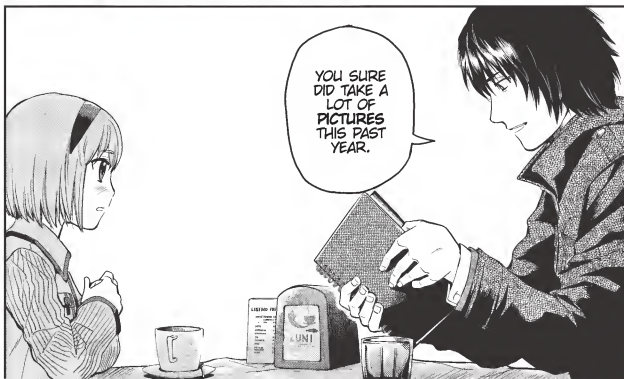
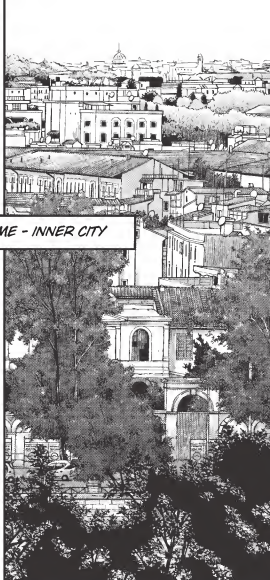
SIGNORE
JOSE,
LOOK AT
THESE!
AREN'T
THEY
PRETTY?

ROME - INNER CITY



THEY'RE
VERY
NEATLY
ORGANIZED,
TOO.

YEAH,
THEY
ARE...



YOU SURE
DID TAKE A
LOT OF
PICTURES
THIS PAST
YEAR.



HOW
ABOUT WE
TAKE ONE,
RIGHT
NOW?



HM?



Y'KNOW,
I DON'T
SEE MANY
PICTURES OF
THE BOTH
OF US
TOGETHER...

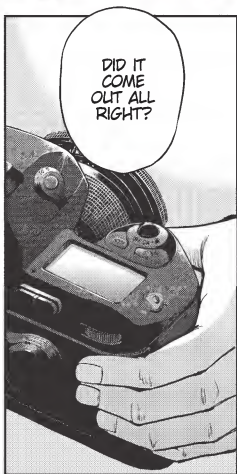


BEEP



S-
SURE
!!

HUH...?







ANGELICA'S
IN CRITICAL
CONDITION?!



YEAH.
I GUESS
THERE
WAS
NEVER
MUCH
HOPE...



THEY SAY
SHE WAS
GETTING
CLOSE TO
THE END
OF HER
LIFESPAN
ANYWAYS...

GETTING
CAUGHT IN
LAST WEEK'S
BOMBING
WAS JUST
THE LAST
LITTLE
SHOVE.



EVEN IF
SHE WASN'T
ALREADY ON
HER LAST LEGS,
THE DOCTORS
SAID THE
WOUNDS SHE
TOOK WOULD'VE
NEARLY KILLED
HER.



PRISCILLA,
I'M NOT
BEING A
DEFEATIST...

ANGELICA
IS DYING,
AND WE
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT...
THAT'S
REALITY.



I MEAN,
THINK
ABOUT IT.
YOU CAME
OUT OF THE
GUARDIA DI
FINANZA.
WE'RE EX-
SOLDIERS.

THAT
MAKES US
JUST A
BUNCH OF
GRUNTS
HERE. WHAT
COULD WE
DO ABOUT
IT?



FINE, I THINK.
HE'S EX-SPECIAL
FORCES.
THEY'RE USED
TO DEALING
WITH SITUATIONS
LIKE THESE.



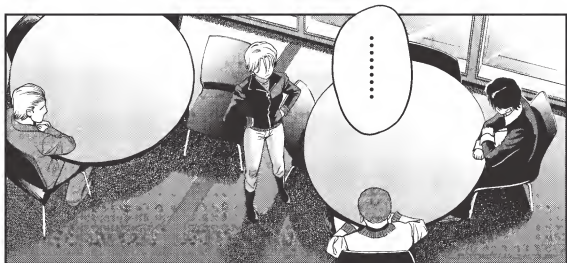
AMA-
DEO.

HOW IS
MARCO
DOING
NOW?



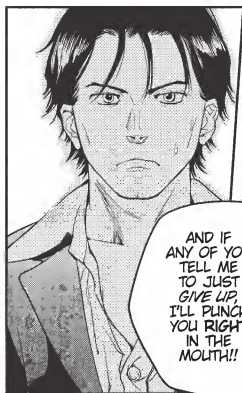
SHUT
UP,
GIORGIO
!!

STOP
TALKING
LIKE OUR
LITTLE
ANGIE IS
ALREADY
GONE!!



I NEED
TO KNOW
WHAT HE
THINKS OF
ALL THIS...
I NEED TO!

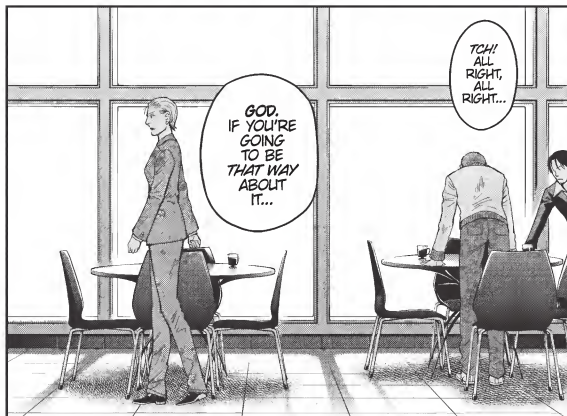
LET'S
GO FIND
MARCO!



AND IF
ANY OF YOU
TELL ME
TO JUST
GIVE UP,
I'LL PUNCH
YOU RIGHT
IN THE
MOUTH!!



C'MON
!!



GUNSLINGERGIRL





THE STORY
MARCO IS
TELLING IS
WAY TOO
CHILDISH.

WELL,
WHY DON'T
I TELL
HER THE
NEXT PART,
THEN?

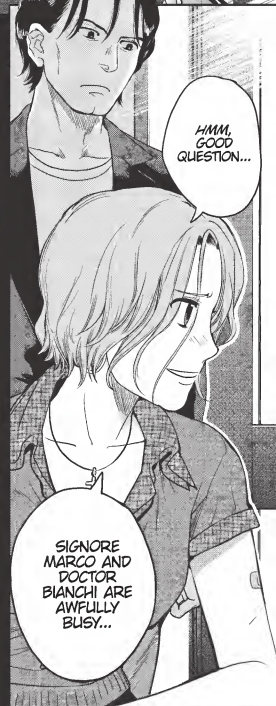


WHEN
DO I GET
TO HEAR
THE NEXT
PART?



ONE
WHERE
THE PRINCE
AND THE
PRINCESS
GET
TOGETHER,
AND BEGIN A
BEAUTIFUL
ROMANCE...

I'LL TELL
HER ONE
THAT'S
MUCH
BETTER.
MORE
MATURE.



HMM,
GOOD
QUESTION...



HEY,
PRISCILLA
?

SIGNORE
MARCO AND
DOCTOR
BIANCHI ARE
AWFULLY
BUSY...



IS IT
BECAUSE
IT'S
YOUR
JOB?



WHY IS
EVERYONE
HERE
ALWAYS
SO NICE
TO ME?



WE DON'T
WANT
THAT TO
HAPPEN
TO YOU...

WE'RE
ALL BEING
NICE TO YOU
BECAUSE
WE WANT
TO.



NO,
THAT'S
NOT
IT AT
ALL.

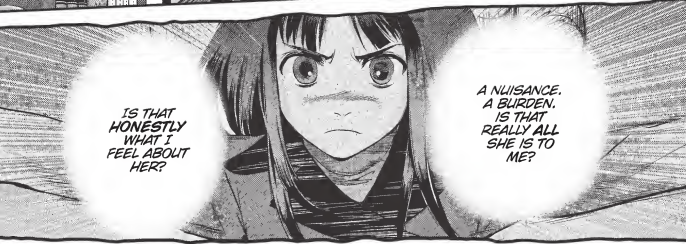
Y'SEE,
SIGNORE
MARCO, ME,
AMADEO...
ALL OF US
WERE
BULLIED A
LOT AT OUR
OTHER
JOBS.





I DIDN'T
SPARE
EVEN A
SINGLE
THOUGHT
FOR
ANGELICA.

AFTER THE
EXPLOSION,
THE ONLY
THING I WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT WAS
MYSELF.
MY
EYESIGHT.



IS THAT
HONESTLY
WHAT I
FEEL ABOUT
HER?

A NUISANCE.
A BURDEN.
IS THAT
REALLY ALL
SHE IS TO
ME?



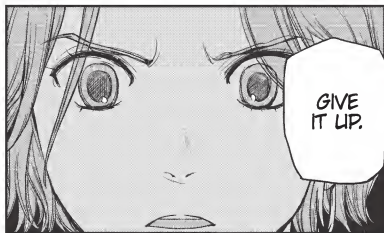
GOD,
THAT'S SO
DESPICABLE!



WE NEED
TO TALK.
IT'S ABOUT
ANGIE...



MARCO!
WE'VE
BEEN
LOOKING
FOR YOU.

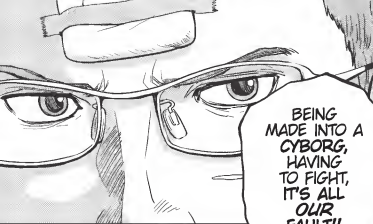


GIVE
IT UP.



EVERY-
ONE HAS
TO DIE
SOMEDAY.





BEING
MADE INTO A
CYBORG,
HAVING
TO FIGHT,
IT'S ALL
OUR
FAULT!!



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT ME
TO DO,
HUH?



SHE WAS
KILLED
WHEN HER
OWN DAD
HIT HER
WITH A
CAR!

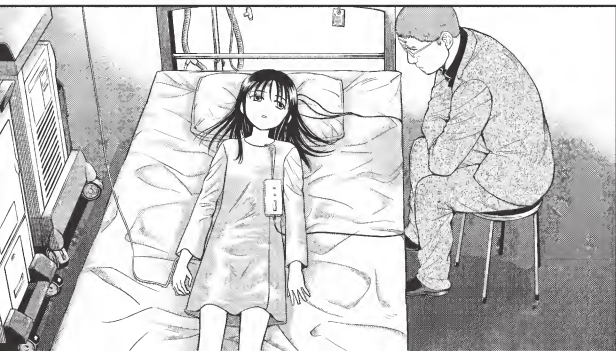
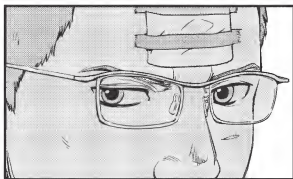


ANGELINA
DIED
YEARS
AGO.



BUT...
BUT WE
CAN'T!!
ALL THE
CRAP THAT'S
HAPPENED
TO HER...





THE DRUG
THAT'S GIVEN
TO ALL THE
CYBORGS IS
WHAT
DESTROYS
THEIR
MEMORY.

DO YOU
REMEMBER
ANYTHING
THAT
HAPPENED
RECENTLY?

TELL ME
WHAT YOU
REMEMBER.
ANYTHING
IS GOOD.

YEAH...
YOU'RE
SIGNORE
MARCO,
RIGHT?

DO YOU...
REMEMBER
ME?



BUT SHE'S
STARTING TO
REMEMBER
THINGS THAT
HAPPENED A
LONG TIME
AGO.

UH...
WHAT
MONTH
IS IT?

ANGELICA'S
STILL
COMPLETELY
FORGETTING
ANYTHING
RECENT.



A
DOGGIE...



IT'LL BE
CHRISTMAS
BEFORE
TOO LONG.

IT'S
DECEMBER.

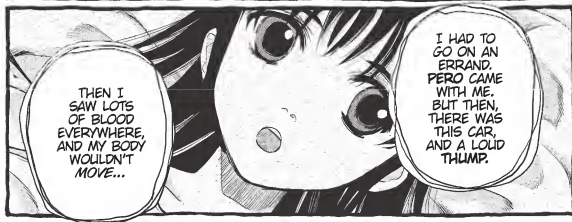
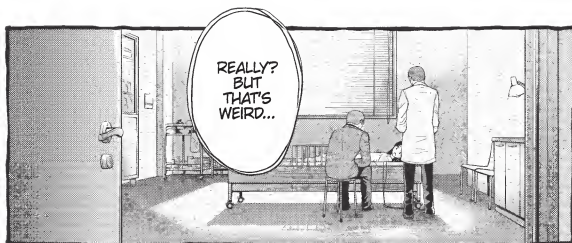


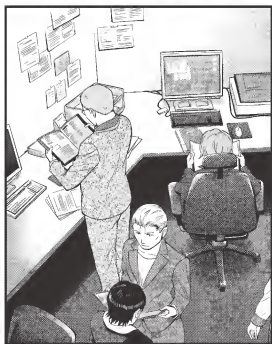
ANY
PRESENTS
YOU
WANT?

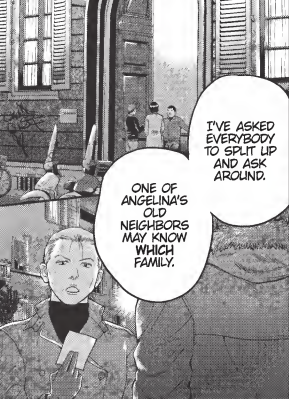


.....



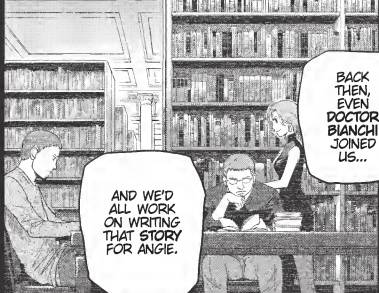






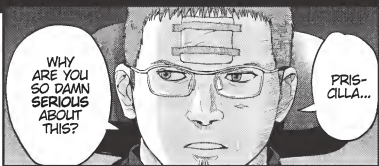
I'VE ASKED EVERYBODY TO SPLIT UP AND ASK AROUND.





BACK
THEN,
EVEN
DOCTOR
BIANCHI
JOINED
US...

AND WE'D
ALL WORK
ON WRITING
THAT STORY
FOR ANGIE.



WHY
ARE YOU
SO DAMN
SERIOUS
ABOUT
THIS?

PRIS-
ILLA...



NONE OF
US ARE
REALLY
GOOD AT
DEALING
WITH
PEOPLE...

THAT'S
WHY WE
ALL GOT
FIRED
FROM OUR
LAST
JOBS.





THANKS TO HER,
WE ALL
MANAGED TO
FIND A PLACE
WHERE WE
COULD
BELONG...



GIORGIO
AND AMADEO
BOTH GOT
FORCIBLY
DISCHARGED
OUT OF THE
ARMY.

I GOT
KICKED OUT
OF THE
POLICE.
OLGA FROM
THE RUSSIAN
EMBASSY.



ITALY IN CHAOS!

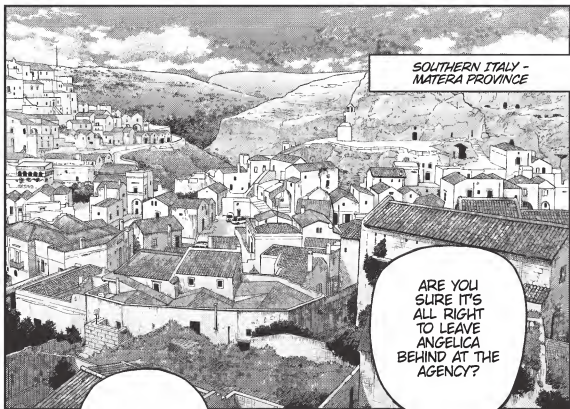
PEOPLE HAD
LABELED US
"ANTI-
GOVERNMENT"
AND
"RIGHTISTS,"
YOU SEE.

WE ALL HAD
NO CHOICE
BUT TO STAND
AND WATCH
AS OUR
CAREERS,
OUR WHOLE
LIVES WENT
UP IN
FLAMES.

ALL RIGHT-WING SYMPATHIZERS
FIRED FROM PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS.

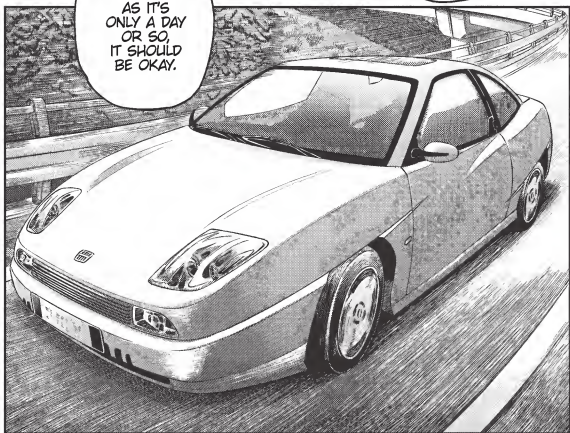


IT WAS
ANGIE WHO
BROUGHT
US
TOGETHER.



ARE YOU
SURE IT'S
ALL RIGHT
TO LEAVE
ANGELICA
BEHIND AT THE
AGENCY?

AS LONG
AS IT'S
ONLY A DAY
OR SO,
IT SHOULD
BE OKAY.





HOW
BAD IS
SHE?



THE
TECHIES
SWORE
TO ME
SHE'D LAST
AT LEAST
ANOTHER
WEEK.



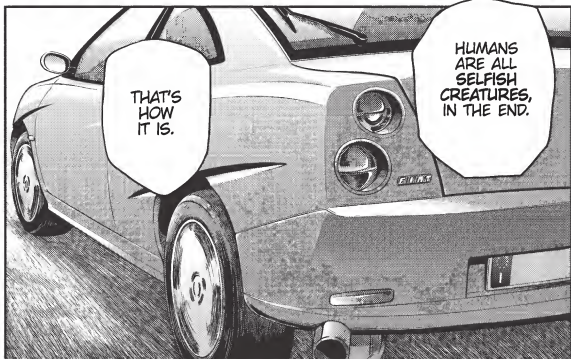
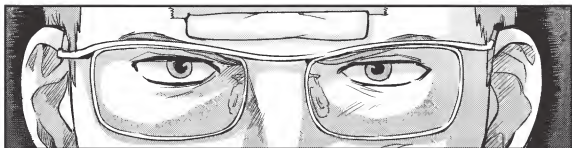
PRETTY BAD.
SHE SLEEPS
MOSTLY,
BUT SOME-
TIMES SHE'S
AWAKE.

SHE'S BEEN
SLEEPING
LONGER AND
STAYING
AWAKE LESS
LATELY,
THOUGH.



SO,
WHAT DOES
FINDING HER
OLD DOG
HAVE TO DO
WITH ANY
OF THIS?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
IT'LL
DO FOR
HER?





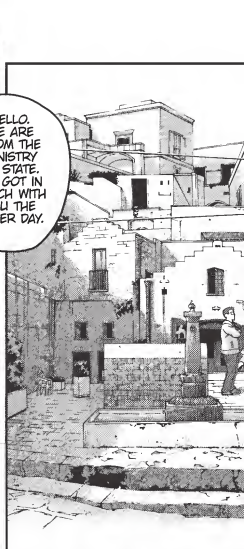
THIS IS
MY WIFE
CARLA,
AND MY
SON
RICARDO.



AND THIS IS
THE DOG
THAT ONCE
BELONGED TO
ANGELINA.



YES,
WE HAVE
BEEN
WAITING
FOR YOU.
PLEASE,
COME IN.



HELLO.
WE ARE
FROM THE
MINISTRY OF
STATE.
WE GOT IN
TOUCH WITH
YOU THE
OTHER DAY.



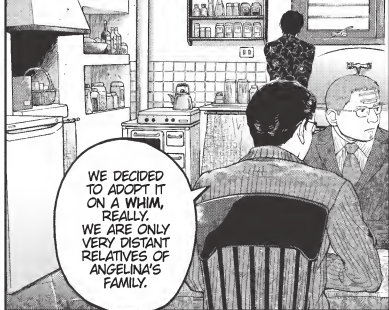
C'MON!
LET'S GO
PLAY
OUTSIDE
THEN!



UH...
YEAH.



HEY,
MISTER!
DO YOU
KNOW HOW
TO PLAY
FOOTBALL?



*"Azzurro" is the Italian word for "blue," but is also the nickname and color of the Italian National Football Team.



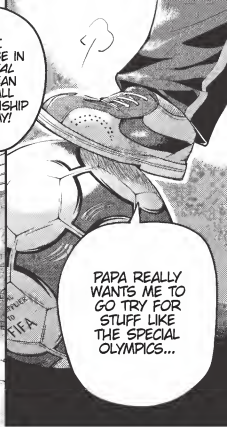


SO THAT
PROSTHETIC
IS WORKING
OUT WELL FOR
YOU?



BUT I
WANNA BE IN
THE REAL
EUROPEAN
FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP
ONE DAY!

I MEAN,
YOU SEE
HOW GOOD
I CAN RUN.
I'M HARDLY
DISABLED
AT ALL!



PAPA REALLY
WANTS ME TO
GO TRY FOR
STUFF LIKE
THE SPECIAL
OLYMPICS...

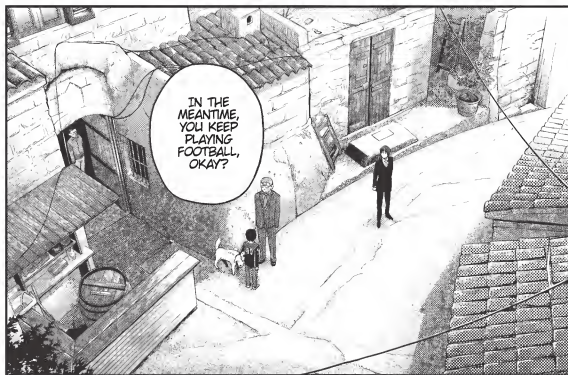
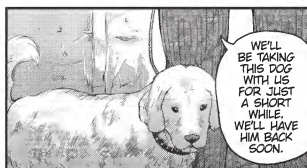


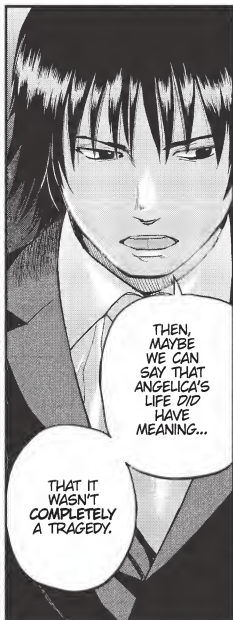
I'M GOOD
ENOUGH
THAT I PLAY
WITH ALL THE
REGULAR
KIDS ON THE
LOCAL
FOOTBALL
TEAM!!

YEAH!
IT'S GOT ARTI-
FICIAL MUSCLE
AND STUFF IN
IT THAT REACTS
TO MY BRAIN
SIGNALS, JUST
LIKE HOW A
REAL LEG
WORKS!



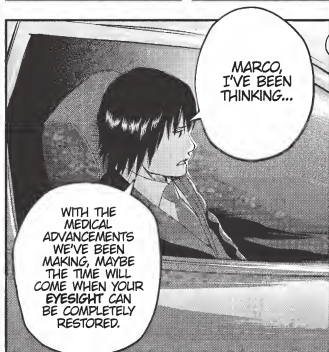
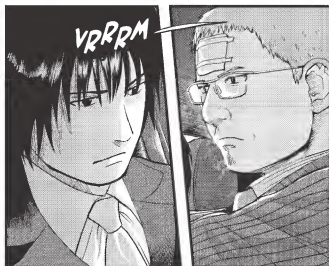






THEN,
MAYBE
WE CAN
SAY THAT
ANGELICA'S
LIFE DID
HAVE
MEANING...

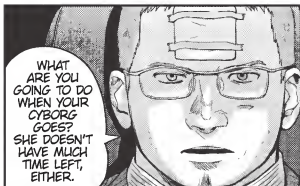
THAT IT
WASN'T
COMPLETELY
A TRAGEDY.

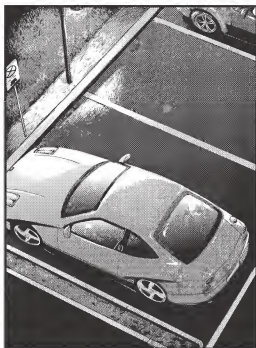
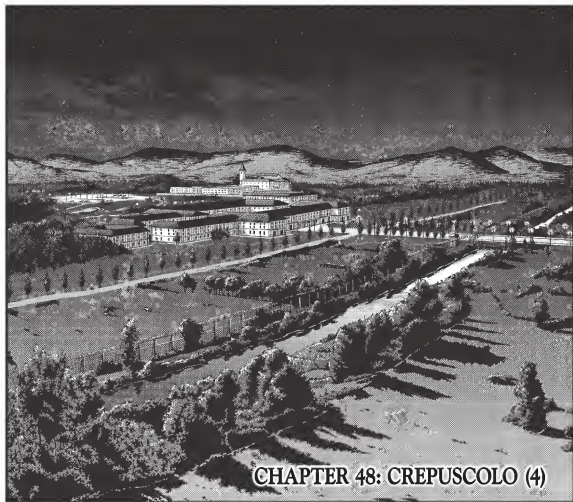


MARCO,
I'VE BEEN
THINKING...

WITH THE
MEDICAL
ADVANCEMENTS
WE'VE BEEN
MAKING, MAYBE
THE TIME WILL
COME WHEN YOUR
EYESIGHT CAN
BE COMPLETELY
RESTORED.









YOU NEED
THE HEAD
DOCTOR'S
APPROVAL
BEFORE YOU
CAN SEE
HER!!

ANGELICA
IS IN A
VERY
SERIOUS
CONDITION!



HE'S
ANGELICA'S
OLD DOG.
SHE'S BEEN
WANTING
TO SEE
HIM.



HE
WENT
HOME
HOURS
AGO!!

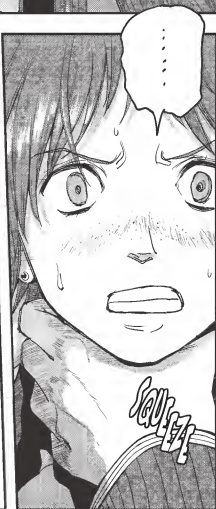
IT'S
TWO
A.M.!



SO
WHERE'S
THE HEAD
DOCTOR?



AND
WHERE
DO YOU
THINK YOU
ARE GOING
WITH THAT
DOG?!





WOULD YOU
RUN AN
ERRAND AT
THE MARKET
FOR ME?

SURE!

ANGELINA.

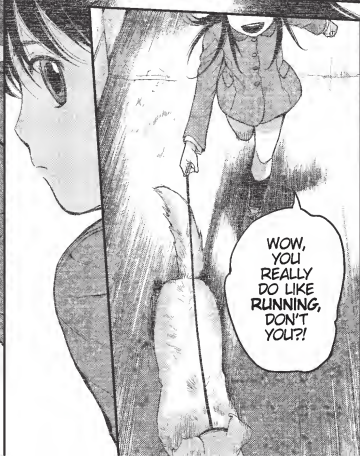
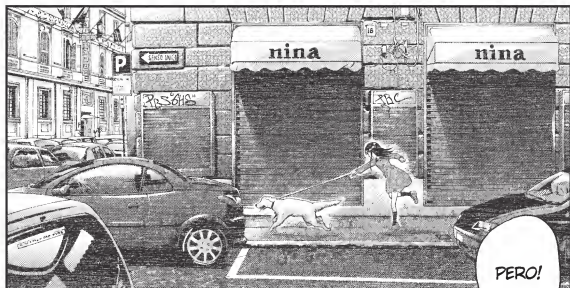


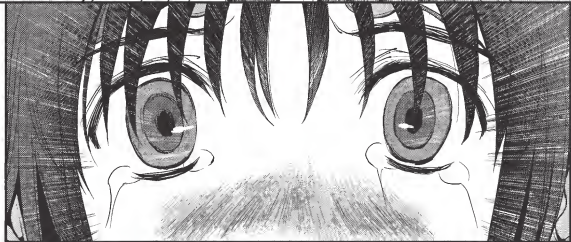
PERO!



C'MON,
BOY!!

ANGELINA!













ANGELICA...
I'M
SORRY.



PERO!

I'M SO
SORRY...

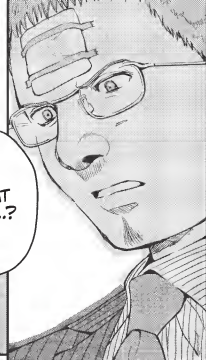


WHY...?



THERE ISN'T
ANYTHING
FOR YOU TO
APOLOGIZE
FOR,
SIGNORE
MARCO...

WHAT
FOR...?



I THINK
MAMA
AND PAPA
HATED
ME...

I...
I'M A
BAD
GIRL,
THOUGH.

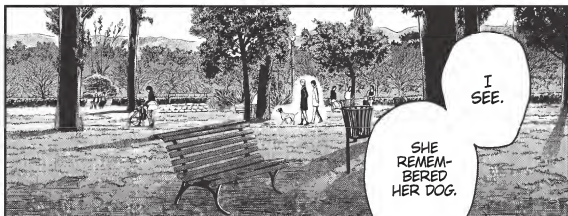


AND IF PERO
WASN'T THERE,
IF I HAD YOU,
SIGNORE MARCO,
AND PRISCILLA
AND ALL THE
OTHERS WITH
ME, THEN
EVERYTHING
WAS OKAY!

I FELT
SO SAD...
BUT IF I
HAD PERO
WITH ME,
THEN
EVERYTHING
WAS OKAY!



WITH ALL
OF YOU
THERE,
I FELT
JUST FINE!
I WASN'T
SAD AT ALL!



I
SEE.

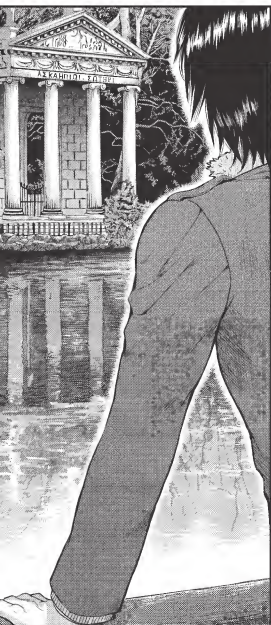
SHE
REMEM-
BERED
HER DOG.

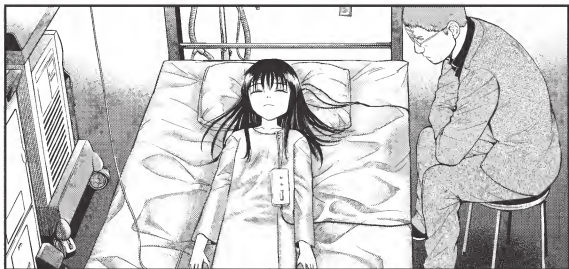


HOWEVER,
ALL OF HER
MEMORIES
DID NOT
RETURN,
CORRECT?

ONLY
TEMPORARILY,
SIR.
JUST FOR A
SHORT TIME
AFTER SHE
FIRST SAW
HER DOG.







NOW...
NOW IT'S
TOO LATE.
THERE ISN'T
ANYTHING
ELSE I CAN
DO FOR
YOU...



BUT
YOU'LL
STILL
FORGIVE
ME,
RIGHT?



I'D GOTTEN
FED UP WITH
TRYING TO
TAKE CARE OF
A CYBORG
WHO'D JUST
TURN AROUND
AND FORGET
EVERYTHING.
IT FELT LIKE IT
WAS ALL FOR
NOTHING.

SO I
ABANDONED
HER.

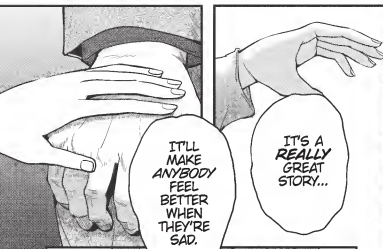


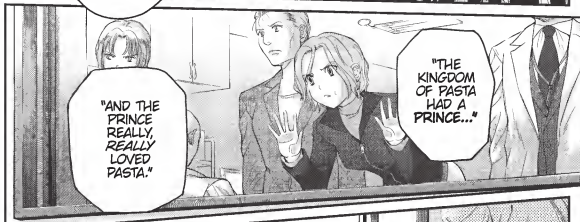
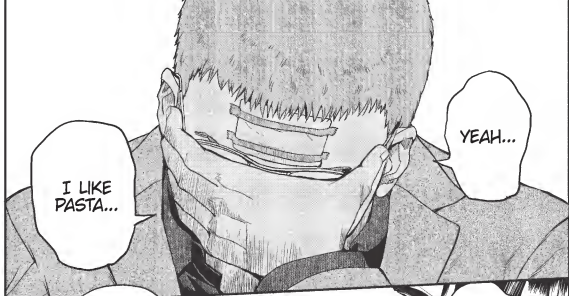
ARE YOU
HURT?

WERE
YOU
CRYING?











"BUT...
IN THE...
THE
KINGDOM
OF
PASTA..."

"THERE
WAS ONLY
ONE
SINGLE
FORK..."

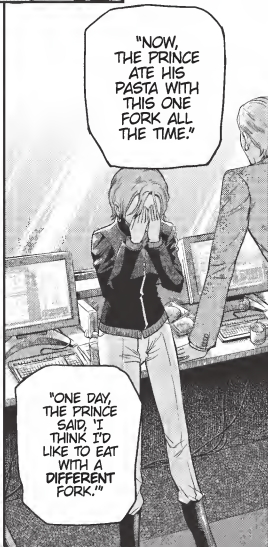
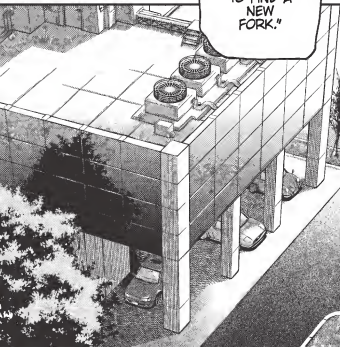


.....

"BUT..."
NH..."



"AND SO,
THE PRINCE
WENT ON A
JOURNEY
TO FIND A
NEW
FORK."



"NOW,
THE PRINCE
ATE HIS
PASTA WITH
THIS ONE
FORK ALL
THE TIME."

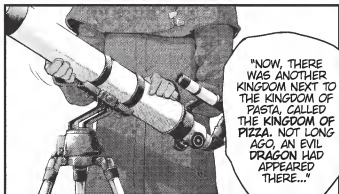
"ONE DAY,
THE PRINCE
SAID, 'I
THINK I'D
LIKE TO EAT
WITH A
DIFFERENT
FORK.'"



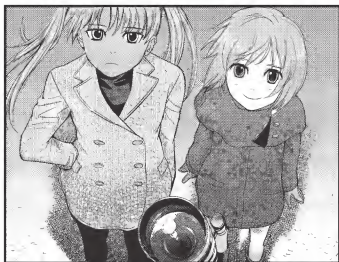
"THERE IS A LAW THAT SAYS WE VILLAGERS AREN'T ALLOWED TO HAVE ANY."

"ONLY THE ROYAL FAMILY IS ALLOWED TO EAT PASTA," HE SAID."

"--BUT THE VILLAGER SHOOK HIS HEAD SADLY."

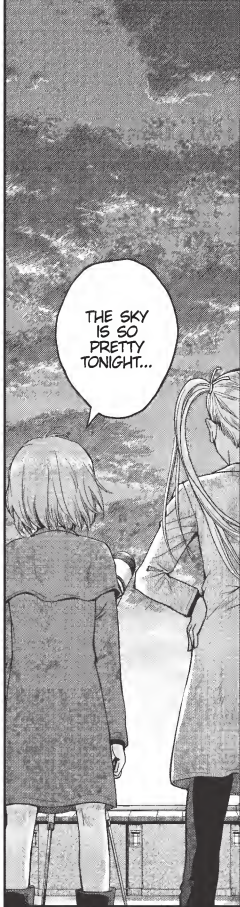


"NOW, THERE WAS ANOTHER KINGDOM NEXT TO THE KINGDOM OF PASTA, CALLED THE KINGDOM OF PIZZA. NOT LONG AGO, AN EVIL DRAGON HAD APPEARED THERE..."



"HOW TERRIBLE!" THOUGHT THE PRINCE."

"HE HAD FINALLY FOUND A NEW FORK TO EAT PASTA WITH, BUT NOW HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS WHO COULD ENJOY EATING PASTA TOGETHER WITH HIM."





THE SIGHT
OF THE SUN
SINKING
BELOW THE
HORIZON HAS
A TERRIBLY
SAD FEELING
TO IT.

DUSK HAS
ALWAYS
BEEN A
FASCINATING
TIME
TO ME.

...

OH.
YES, YES,
WE SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO SEE
THEM QUITE
WELL.



ALMOST
LIKE AN
ETERNAL
FAREWELL.



ISN'T
ANGELICA
GONNA
COME
WATCH
WITH US,
TOO?

HEY,
GUYS!



"HE
WOULD
NEVER
HAVE TO
BE ALL
ALONE
AGAIN."

I'M A
LITTLE
JEALOUS
OF THE
STARS...

THEY
SIT UP
THERE IN
THE SKY
IN CALM,
PEACEFUL
SOLITUDE...

BUT
THEY ARE
NEVER
REALLY
ALONE.



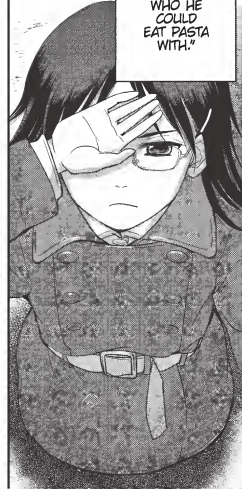
"AND THE
PRINCE
WAS
REALLY
HAPPY."

OH, YEAH.
NOW THAT
I THINK
ABOUT IT,
SHE HASN'T
BEEN AROUND
MUCH LATELY,
HAS SHE?



SO I
HAVEN'T
BEEN
ABLE TO
ASK HIM
ABOUT
IT.

YEAH.
SIGNORE
HILSHIRE'S
BEEN
REALLY
BUSY
LATELY,
THOUGH...



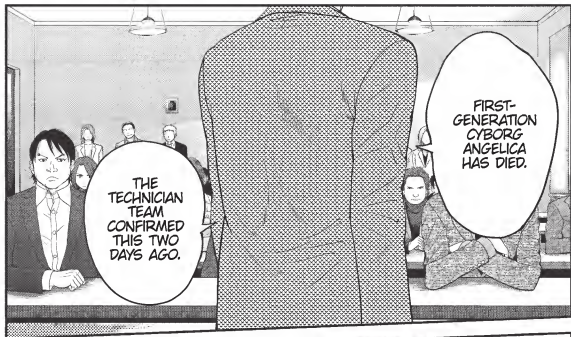
"NOW HE
HAD LOTS
AND LOTS
OF FRIENDS
WHO HE
COULD
EAT PASTA
WITH."





*SHE
NEVER
WOKE
AGAIN.*

*AT DUSK,
RIGHT WHEN
THE PURPLE
OF WINTER
NIGHT
BEGAN TO
SEEP UP
INTO THE
SKY,
ANGELICA
QUIETLY
FELL
ASLEEP.*



THE
TECHNICIAN
TEAM
CONFIRMED
THIS TWO
DAYS AGO.

FIRST-
GENERATION
CYBORG
ANGELICA
HAS DIED.



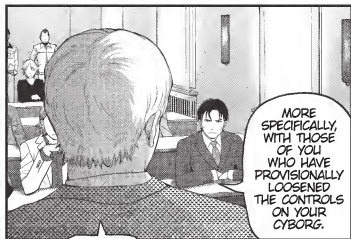
IN OTHER
WORDS,
AS A CYBORG,
SHE HAD
REACHED THE
END OF HER
FUNCTIONAL
LIFESPAN.

THE
CAUSE
WAS
BRAIN
DEATH.



HOWEVER...

I REMIND
ALL OF YOU
HANDLERS TO
BE MINDFUL
OF THE
PSYCHOLOGICAL
WELL-BEING
OF YOUR
CYBORG.



MORE SPECIFICALLY, WITH THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE PROVISIONALLY LOOSENED THE CONTROLS ON YOUR CYBORG.

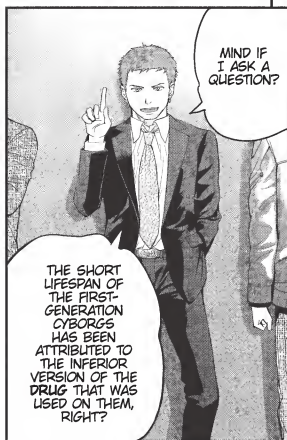


THOUGH, I AM SURE I DO NOT HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT.



IF ANY PROBLEMS ARISE FROM THIS ISSUE, I EXPECT THEM TO BE FOUND ELSEWHERE.

CONSIDERING THEIR "CONDITIONING," IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THIS NEWS WILL HAVE ANY IMPACT ON THEM.

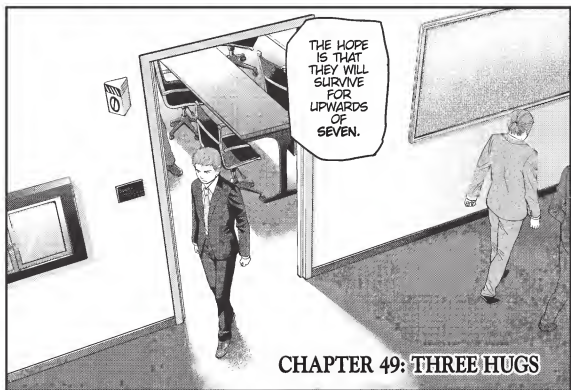
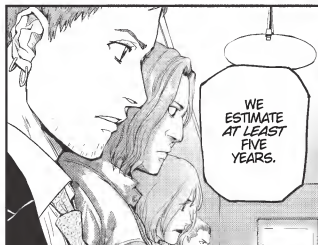


MIND IF I ASK A QUESTION?

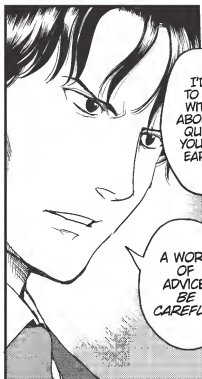
THE SHORT LIFESPAN OF THE FIRST-GENERATION CYBORGS HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE INFERIOR VERSION OF THE DRUG THAT WAS USED ON THEM, RIGHT?



JEAN?



CHAPTER 49: THREE HUGS



I'D LIKE
TO SPEAK
WITH YOU
ABOUT THAT
QUESTION
YOU ASKED
EARLIER...

A WORD
OF
ADVICE:
BE
CAREFUL.



YEAH,
HILSHIRE?

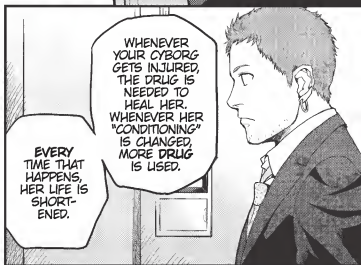


ALES-
SANDRO.



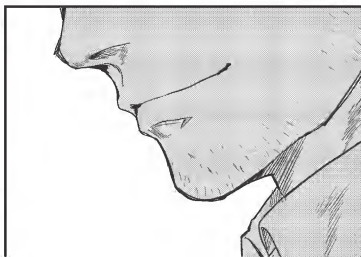
C'MON,
HILSHIRE.
I KNOW
THAT.

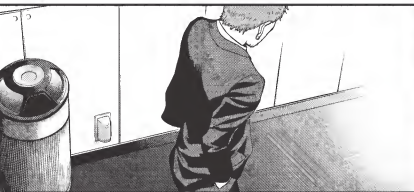
BUT MY
PETRUSHKA
IS NO CLUMSY
SLOUCH.
SHE WON'T
GET INTO
THAT KIND OF
TROUBLE.



WHENEVER
YOUR CYBORG
GETS INJURED,
THE DRUG IS
NEEDED TO
HEAL HER.
WHENEVER HER
"CONDITIONING"
IS CHANGED,
MORE DRUG
IS USED.

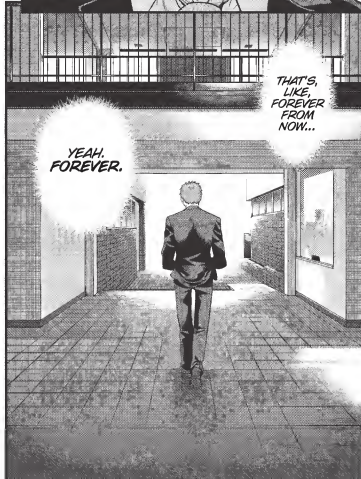
EVERY
TIME THAT
HAPPENS,
HER LIFE IS
SHORT-
ENED.





HELL,
I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
IF I'M
GOING TO
BE STILL
KICKING IN
FIVE
YEARS.

FIVE
YEARS,
HUH?



YEAH.
FOREVER.

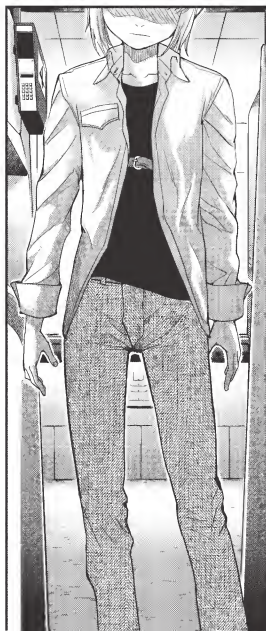
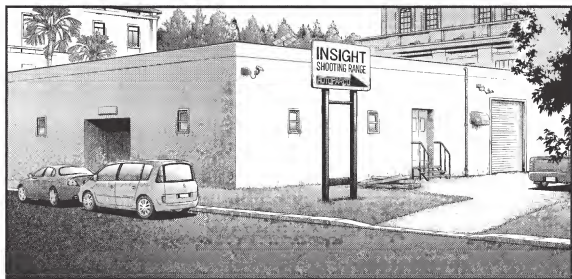
THAT'S,
LIKE,
FOREVER
FROM
NOW...



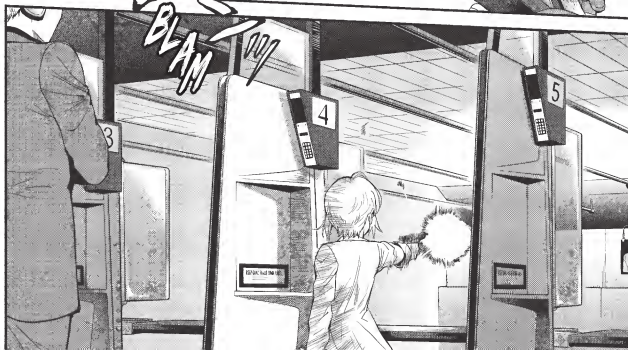
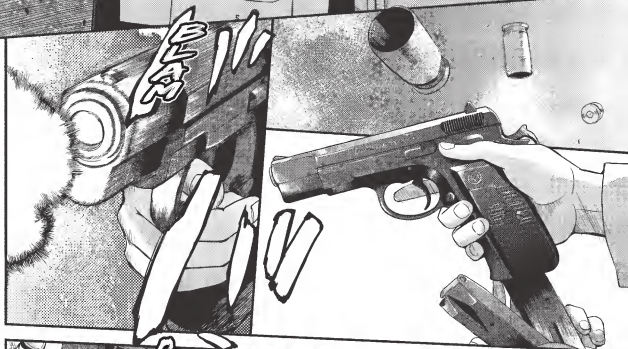
BESIDES,
THERE'S NO
POINT IN TRYING
TO TEACH THEM
ANYTHING IF
YOU'RE JUST
GONNA LET
THEM KICK THE
BUCKET THAT
QUICK.

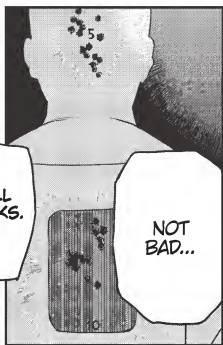
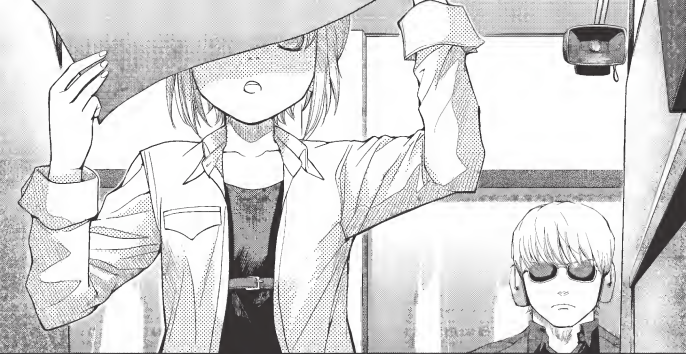


.....





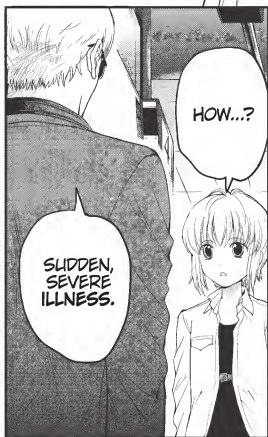
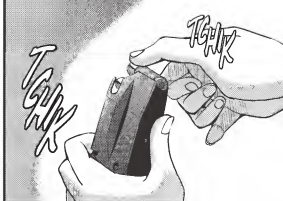




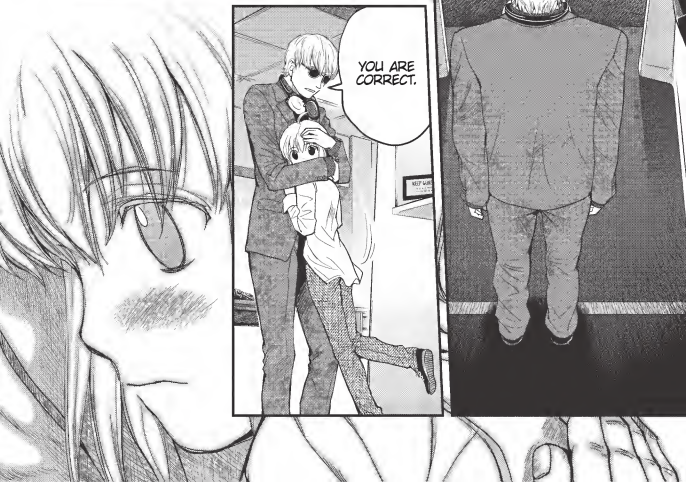
FULL
MARKS.

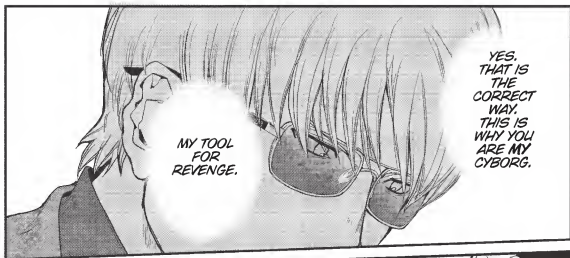
YOU
HAVE
IMPROVED
MUCH.

NOT
BAD...









MY TOOL
FOR
REVENGE.

YES.
THAT IS
THE
CORRECT
WAY.
THIS IS
WHY YOU
ARE MY
CYBORG.



RIGHT NOW,
I'M MORE
HAPPY THAT
SIGNORE
JEAN IS
HUGGING
ME.

I'M
SORRY,
ANGELICA.
I'M NOT
REALLY
SAD THAT
YOU'RE
DEAD.

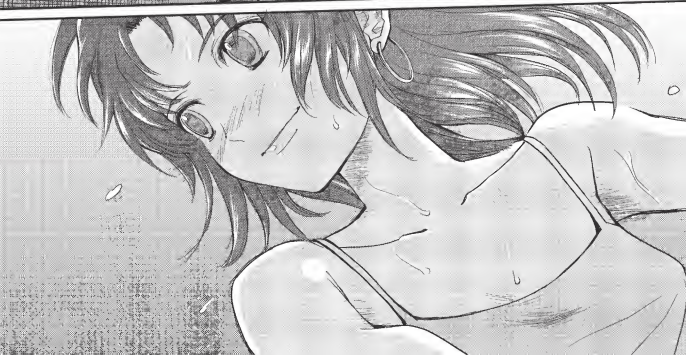
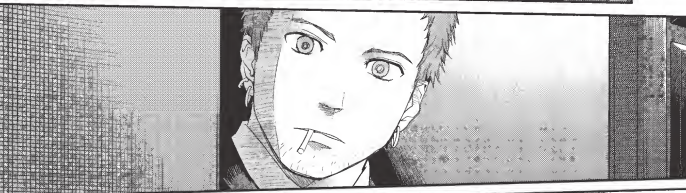


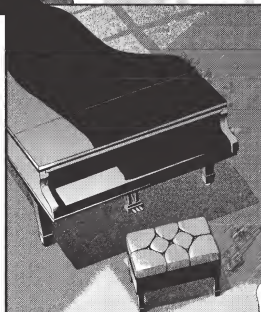
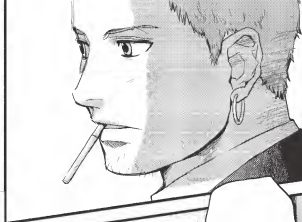
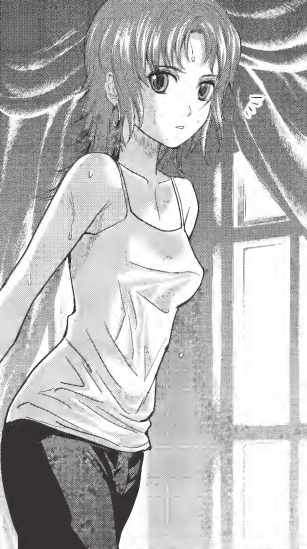
AND THAT'S
THE WAY IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE.
THAT'S THE
CORRECT
WAY.

RIGHT,
SIGNORE
JEAN...?













N-
NOTHING.
JUST A
LITTLE
DIZZY,
THAT'S
ALL.

I THINK I
MUST'VE
OVERDONE
IT A
LITTLE.



HEY!
ARE
YOU
OKAY
?!



REALLY?
YOU
SURE?

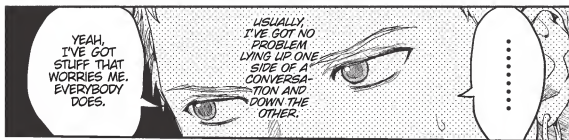
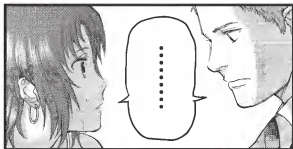


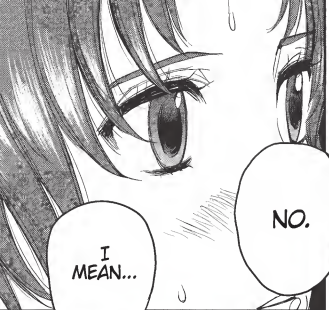
WHAT'S
WRONG
?!



I TOLD
YOU ONCE
AND I'LL
TELL YOU
AGAIN,
DON'T
PUSH IT.
UNDER-
STAND?







I
MEAN...

NO.

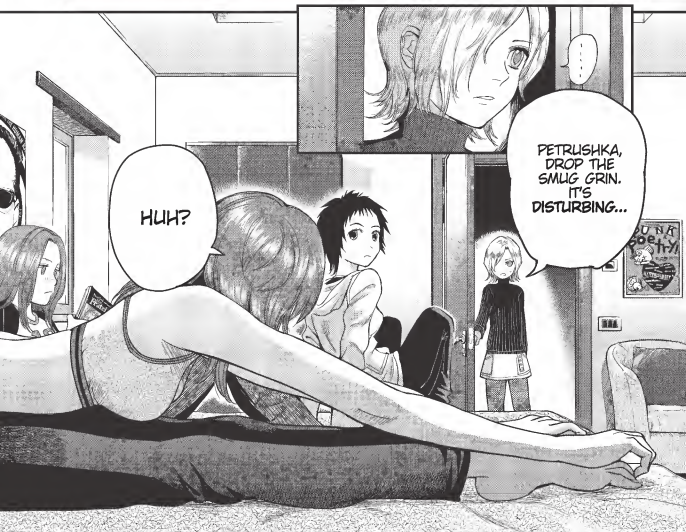
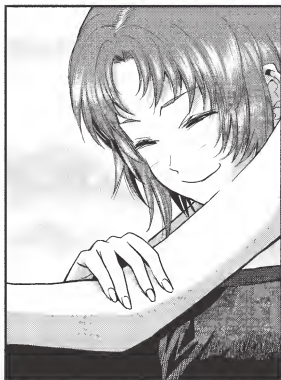


AREN'T
YOU
GOING
TO
ASK...?



YOU DON'T
LOOK
LIKE YOU
WANT ME
TO ASK
ANYTHING...





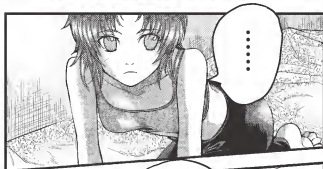
HUH?

PETRUSHKA,
DROP THE
SMUG GRIN.
IT'S
DISTURBING...



I DIDN'T
THINK
I WAS
GRINNING.

WAS
I?



.....



WELL, MY
HANDLER...

HOLD
IT
RIGHT
THERE
!!



YES,
YOU WERE.
LIKE A
CAT THAT
GOT THE
CANARY.

B/T/M

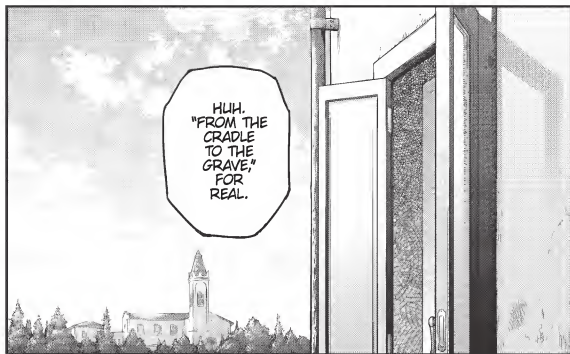
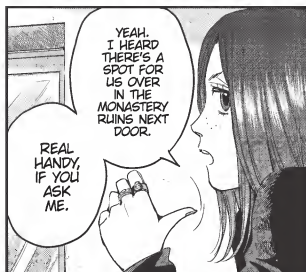
WHAT'S UP?
DID
SOMETHING
AWESOME
HAPPEN?

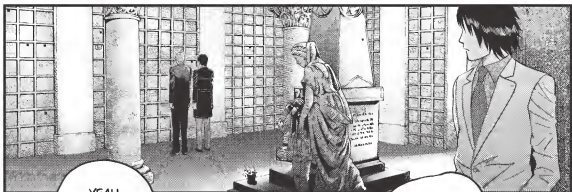
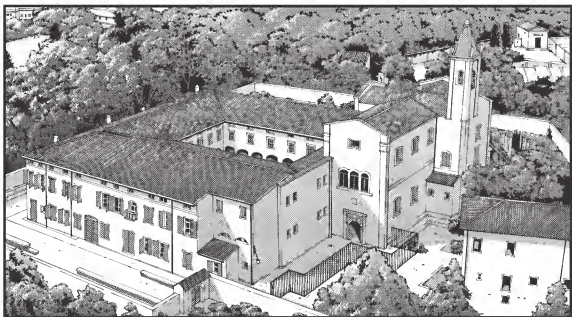


THE
REST IS
UNDOUBT-
EDLY
LOVE-SICK
GUSHING.

THAT'S
ALL WE
NEED
TO
KNOW.

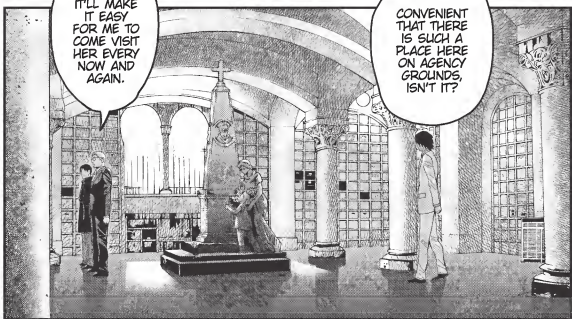


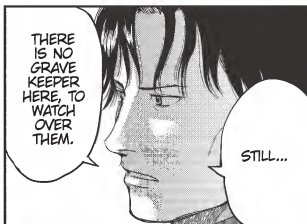




YEAH.
IT'LL MAKE
IT EASY
FOR ME TO
COME VISIT
HER EVERY
NOW AND
AGAIN.

CONVENIENT
THAT THERE
IS SUCH A
PLACE HERE
ON AGENCY
GROUNDS,
ISN'T IT?



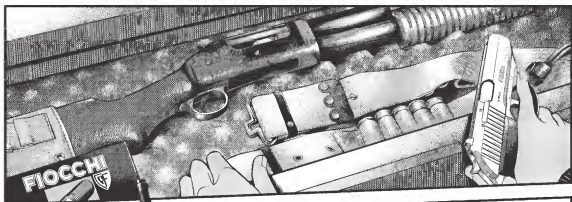








MY SIG SAUER P230.

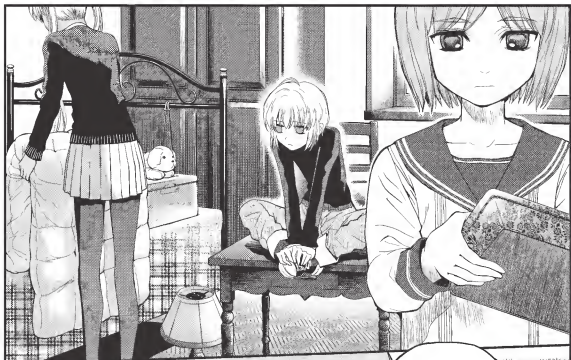




WHO
GAVE IT
TO ME?
WHEN DID
I GET
IT...?

THIS ONE...
I DON'T
REMEMBER.

CHAPTER 50: TWO THOUGHTS







BUT,
HONESTLY,
I DON'T
REALLY FEEL
ANYTHING.

I
THOUGHT
I'D BE
A LOT
SADDER
THAN
THIS...



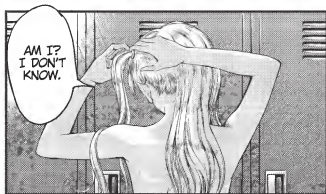
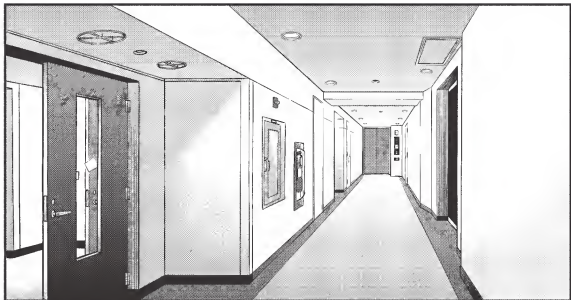
YOU'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN
NICE.
RIGHT,
TRIELA?



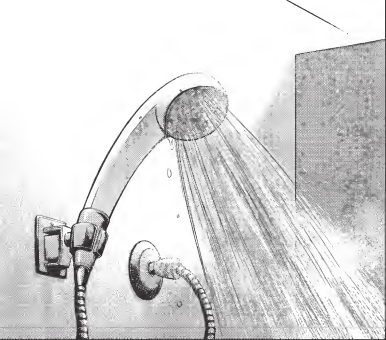
I'M NOT
REALLY
THAT NICE
AT ALL.

NO,
ANGIE.







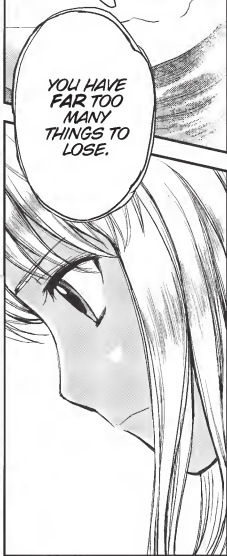


NO,
TRIELA,
YOU COULD
NEVER
FACE DEATH
AS QUIETLY
AS I DO.



NO
PROMISING
FUTURE.
NO HAPPY
PAST
EITHER,
SINCE WE
FORGOT IT
ALL SO
QUICKLY.

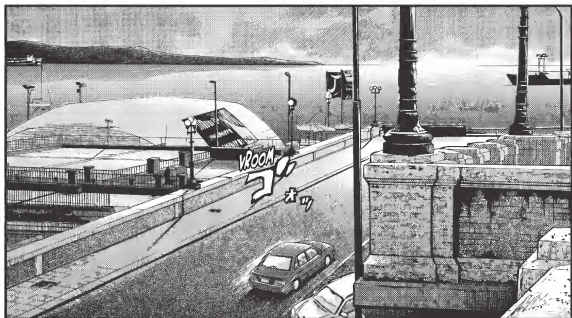
WE
CYBORGS
REALLY
DON'T
HAVE
ANYTHING
AT ALL,
DO WE?



YOU HAVE
FAR TOO
MANY
THINGS TO
LOSE.



ALL
THERE IS
FOR US IS
TO FIGHT
AND FIGHT
AND
FIGHT
UNTIL THE
DAY WE
DIE.





NAPLES - PIAZZA DEL PLEBISCITO





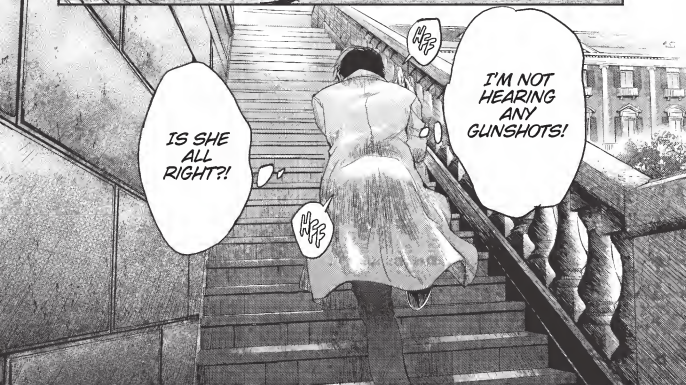
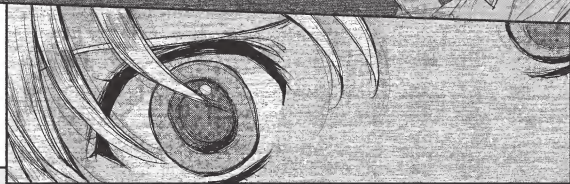
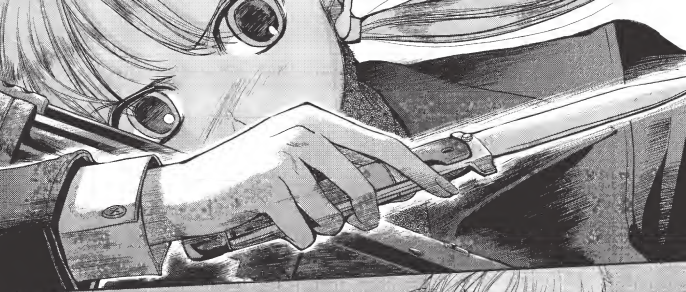


WAK

BANG

WHOK



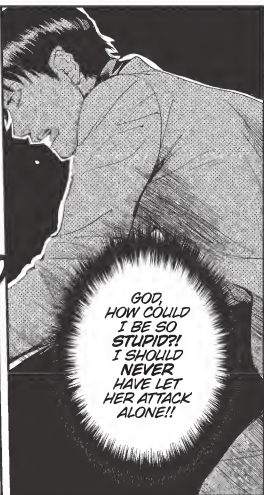


IS SHE
ALL
RIGHT?!

I'M NOT
HEARING
ANY
GUNSHOTS!

WFF

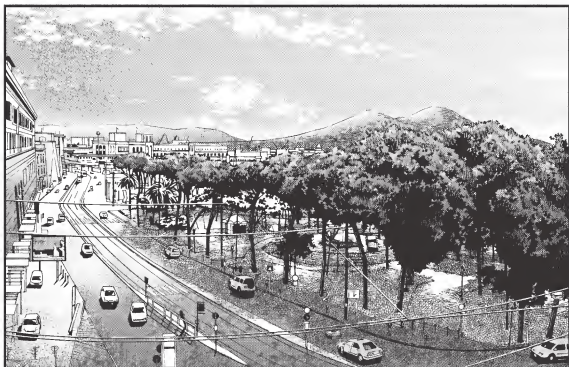
WFF



GOD,
HOW COULD
I BE SO
STUPID?!
I SHOULD
NEVER
HAVE LET
HER ATTACK
ALONE!!

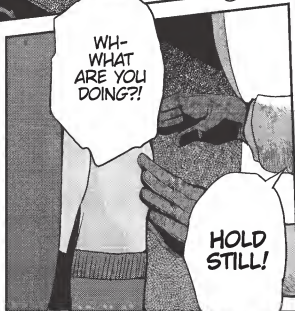


TRIELA
!!





WHA
...?



WH-
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

HOLD
STILL!



EVEN A
SMALL
WOUND
CAN
BECOME A
CRITICAL
THING.



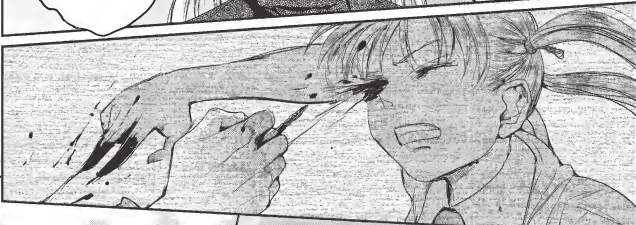
LET
ME
SEE.

NO
HIDING
ANYTHING,
UNDER-
STAND?



NOW YOU
WANT ME
TO DO IT
WITHOUT
GETTING
TOUCHED?!
QUIT ASKING
FOR THE
IMPOSSIBLE!

ARE YOU
KIDDING ME?!
FIRST,
YOU WANTED
ME TO
CAPTURE
THEM
WITHOUT
KILLING...



I MEAN,
THAT'S THE
WHOLE
REASON WE
CYBORGS
ARE HERE,
RIGHT?

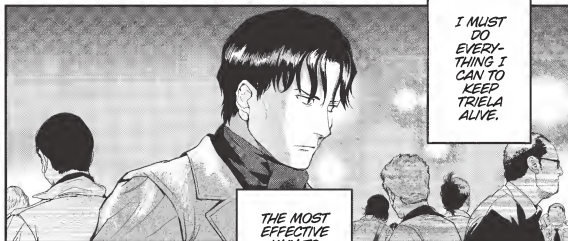


I'M
GOING TO
GET HURT
SOMEWHERE
ALONG
THE LINE.
IT'S JUST
GOING TO
HAPPEN.



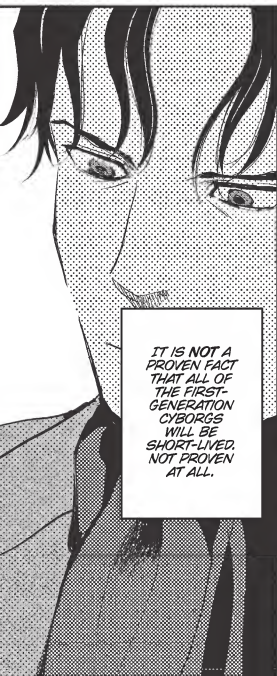
WE
EXIST
TO
FIGHT.



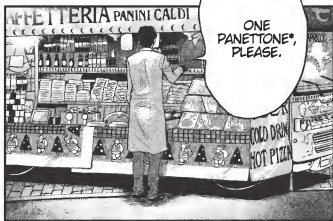


I MUST
DO
EVERY-
THING I
CAN TO
KEEP
TRIELA
ALIVE.

THE MOST
EFFECTIVE
WAY TO
EXTEND HER
LIFE IS TO
PREVENT
HER FROM
GETTING
HURT.



IT IS NOT A
PROVEN FACT
THAT ALL OF
THE FIRST-
GENERATION
CYBORGS
WILL BE
SHORT-LIVED.
NOT PROVEN
AT ALL.



ONE
PANETTONE*,
PLEASE.



THAT
WILL BE
FIVE
EUROS.

* Panettone is a sweet bread generally enjoyed in Italy around Christmas and New Year's.





ROMA #45,46,47,48,49,50

MATERA #47

NAPOLI #50

GUNSLINGERGIRL

EVERYTHING CHANGES

When new children are brought into the Social Welfare Agency, their minds are wiped and their bodies enhanced with the latest in cutting edge cybernetics. They are blank slates ready to be molded and conditioned as their handlers see fit. Yet for Angelica, the first of the Agency's cyborg assassins, memories of the life she once knew have started to return. Dreams of her childhood fill her sleep, and visions of her old dog, Perro, haunt her by day. Worst of all, remembering who she was is starting to make her forget who she is now...



OLDER TEEN (16+)

WWW.GOMANGA.COM

MANGA



Seven Seas